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## LITERATURE.

*Fifty Years of the English Constitution.* By Sheldon Amos, M.A., Barrister-at-Law. (Longmans.)

A GREAT deal of attention has latterly been given in England to contemporary history. Much has been attempted in the very numerous biographies of public men; though here, as may be expected, the narrative is generally, in the Greek sense of the word, an apology, for the object of these biographies is quite as much the maintenance of a deceased statesman's policy as it is the vindication of his reputation. Even the memoirs of the most exalted personages have been recorded with this purpose, for no one can doubt that the labours of Mr. Theodore Martin are quite as much devoted to an active future as they are to a philosophical retrospect, or that Mr. Ashley's estimate of Lord Palmerston's career is as fully intended to vindicate the reputation of a certain school in modern politics as to describe the action of a man who was better liked and more disliked than almost any person of his time. Political biography holds, then, a middle place between the political criticism of newspapers and reviews and the attempts which have latterly been made to form a general estimate of the forces, political and social, which are influencing and modifying the England of our own time. The public has fairly responded to the efforts which have been made by men of letters, and has manifested an adequate interest in the narrative of contemporary history. The fact is instructive, because it shows that an increasing number of persons is striving to form a judgment on current facts, or on facts so near that they are still affecting opinion and action; and also because it is evidence that the highest positions and the most exalted reputations are to be criticised, or that criticism on them should be disarmed, or that, if possible, they and their acts should be made popular. To modify the words of one among these personages, public men, as well as constitutional government, are on their trial; and though, perhaps, it is too much to expect that biographers should be dispassionate, they have to take for granted that the public will be, and thereupon try to conciliate them. In brief, the present age is reviving the epoch in which peers and prelates wrote or published partisan histories, such as those of Burnet and Clarendon, when Ralph told the story of Anne's reign to her contemporaries, when parties patronised the press, when Swift tried to popularise Harley's policy, and Bolingbroke invited the English people, in the best English at his command,

and very good it was, to surrender the liberties they had won to the restored Stuarts. The criticism of modern events has made progress since the time that Mr. Irving published his useful volume of newspaper cuttings, and the success of Mr. Justin McCarthy's work is not more creditable to the author than it is to the public. There is reason to believe that an increasing number of persons is desirous of being informed of the manner in which English history has been made during the last fifty years, and of becoming able to criticise as well as to read partisan newspapers.

The work of Mr. Amos is a contribution to this novel but useful kind of literature. It purports to give an account of how the several forces which, when adjusted and working together, make up what people call the Constitution, have gained or lost strength during the changes of the fifty years which, roughly speaking, have followed the passage of the first Reform Bill. Mr. Amos is as far qualified for the task as the able son of a very distinguished father might be, for he is entitled to appeal to the reputation which his father obtained, and it is well known that he has inherited his father's tastes and followed his father's studies. He has, however, undertaken a task which is not easily fulfilled; for, while the collection and arrangement of constitutional antiquities is a work which needs very little discretion and no great parts beyond industry and accuracy, the interpretation of contemporary events in a judicial manner requires a very great deal of discrimination, as well as a very broad view. Besides, to handle topics of the day, in a fashion which precludes the author from the apology which is fairly and justly made for the usages of party warfare, requires a great deal of courage. A man may think that the iron which he handles is cold, but may find that it may scorch him after all. And, as Mr. Amos has dealt very largely with the events of the last half-dozen years, and has treated them with sufficient clearness, though constantly with judicial caution, it will be strange if the real merits of his book are acknowledged by partisans.

The least satisfactory part of the work of Mr. Amos is that which treats (chapter iv.) of the Liberty of the Subject. The topic is very large, and properly requires separate handling, for the attitude which law takes towards individual liberty, when it is not engaged in supplying a remedy for personal wrongs, or assisting the prosecution of private rights, or chastising crime, but is merely controlling society in the real or reputed interests of society, is one which needs a very careful and a very analytical study. It is certainly, we believe, incorrect to say that "legislative assemblies are not the less despotic for being democratised." Mr. Amos would be the first to admit that, since the House of Commons has become a more popular assembly, it has given civil liberties which a narrower franchise refused or dreaded, and that it has never pretended to control liberty except in cases where it believed that the interests of all were concerned, or where existing freedom was really the power of oppressing others, or where it has been persuaded that the constraint of law is a

means for quickening education in a demonstrable truth. Since the passage of the Reform Bill no restraint of individual action has been enacted which is to be compared with that virtual serfdom which property imposed on labour under the old law of parochial settlement, and in the interests of property only. It may be that the Factory Acts are open to adverse criticism, that some so-called sanitary laws are of doubtful policy, of doubtful justice, or are even mischievous errors, but they have been adopted in honest error; and because, through the peculiar character and conduct of the English Parliament, it is frequently necessary to trust to experts who are always very positive, and probably are, to the great public inconvenience, often in the wrong. But it would be worth while for the students of political ethics to examine, in the light of facts, the question—To what extent is the formation of individual character aided or hindered by the restraints of law?

It is a common practice to praise the English Constitution because it is unwritten and, therefore, elastic. Such praise can be accorded to it only when it acts in the clear light of day, when the Government is, except on those rare occasions in which the public security requires a temporary secrecy, absolutely candid and truthful to Parliament, and when the various elements of the State are content to abide by the historical position which long usage has assigned them. For the English Constitution is, above all, a balance of powers, in which each factor could theoretically arrogate far more to itself than it practically pretends to do, but which could not, as it well understands, when it is not misled by evil counsellors and political adventurers, claim more than it possesses without danger to itself. For a hundred and forty years the Lords virtually ruled this country, and they surrendered their power only to the dread of revolution. But they surrendered it irrevocably. George III. was personally a popular Sovereign. But he attempted personal rule; he affected, though only a Sovereign by Act of Parliament, and with fifty members of the European royal houses who had by English custom a better title to the Crown than himself, to believe in the possession of a right which was stronger than that which constituted his true strength, and his throne was never in such peril as it was just before the English people veered suddenly round in view of the first excesses of the French Revolution. The chief danger which the happy expedient of the collective authority of the administration runs—an authority which is virtually the second or inner chamber of Parliament—is in the risk of rousing the jealousy or suspicion of the nation by furtive practices, and ostentatious exhibitions of the prerogative. It may seem a paradox, but it is a truth, that the origin of English loyalty to the Crown lies in the fact that the English royal family is where it is by Act of Parliament only, a fact which Mr. Amos sees very clearly and Baron Stockmar did not see at all.

JAMES E. THOROLD ROGERS.

*The Greek New Testament, edited from Ancient Authorities, with their Various Readings in Full and the Latin Version of Jerome.* By Samuel Prideaux Tregelles, LL.D. (Samuel Bagster & Sons.)

SUCH is the title issued with the seventh and concluding part of Dr. Tregelles' great work, containing a text of the New Testament in Greek, the result of more than thirty years' laborious consultation of ancient MSS., versions, and commentaries. In this short notice we confine our attention to the recently published seventh part. All who are interested in these matters know that it is a posthumous publication, and all of course were aware that, whenever it should come out, it would want the editor's finishing touch, and must exhibit a very imperfect representation of what the introductory matter would have furnished if this indefatigable collator had lived to bring his task to an end. But we never remember having been so bitterly disappointed in the completion of any work. Dr. Hort is, we suppose, the responsible editor, though he has associated the name of Mr. Streane with his own, and it does not exactly appear what parts have been assigned to each editor. The seventh part, which is nearly of the same size with the preceding ones, consists of thirty-two pages of introductory matter, and several leaves which are folded over so as to lie open when wanted, with the printed portion (one-fourth of the whole leaf) visible, while the reader has another page of the Testament before him. It is a most inconvenient arrangement, as the leaves will be sure to get crumpled as soon as ever they are used. These leaves contain the *Addenda et Corrigenda* which Dr. Tregelles would have appended to the completed edition of his Greek Testament. Of course it is no fault of the present editors that they could find no more information in what Dr. Tregelles left; but, as they had undertaken the work, we should have been glad to have some connected account in their own words of his labours, his views, and opinions. He would unquestionably have given us his opinion as to the value of the Codex Sinaiticus, the *facsimile* of which had not been printed when he issued his first instalment. It would have been something if only his editors had given some opinion on their own part how far the text of the first two gospels would have been modified by the additional evidence afforded by probably the most ancient, certainly the most valuable, of all existing MSS.

We have taken the trouble to compare the text of these two gospels with a text which we had ourselves composed from a comparison of the Sinaitic and other early uncials, neglecting all modern editions and cursive MSS., and the result is that in about one-tenth of the variations from the *Textus Receptus*—which, speaking generally, and omitting, of course, all variations of less importance, were about six hundred, which we considered nearly certain—we differed from Tregelles' text. Of this tenth we found that in most cases we had selected a reading which was witnessed to by the Codex Sinaiticus. How far Dr. Tregelles would have modified his text after seeing this single additional MS. it is impossible for us to say; but

we think the fact we have stated shows how great is the agreement of the earlier documents when the text at the most would so very rarely have had to be altered through the discovery of this most valuable MS.

We have referred to but one point which we think might have been advantageously illustrated by the editors, whose business it surely was to have written in their own words a preface, describing what they have put together as prolegomena in Dr. Tregelles' language, in passages detached from each other and selected from various works. After glancing over these—which, of course, do not profess to contain anything new, and which are almost entirely in Dr. Tregelles' own words—we come to an "Account of Preparatory Labours" printed in smaller type, also in his own words, and then to the real *Addenda et Corrigenda*, prefaced by four pages of Introduction signed with the initials F. J. A. H. Accordingly, in the *Addenda et Corrigenda*, we expected to find the same arrangement followed, instead of which we find a mixture of notes, which are for the most part, we suppose, due to Dr. Tregelles, but in many of which Dr. Tregelles' name is quoted. Thus, on the very first page, we have the following notice, which perhaps implies some dissent from his opinion:—

"In part ii. Dr. Tregelles silently raises to the class of 'later uncial MSS. of special importance' the two following:—

"*Frag. Mosq.*—Dr. Tregelles reprinted from Matthaï these fragments of John i. and xx. as an appendix to the Codex Zacynthius. They have since been re-collated by Tischendorf, in whose chief editions they stand as O."

"Y.—This MS. contains John xvi. 3-xix. 41.

"To this class (b) may now be added fragments of Mark vii.-ix. in the library of Trinity College, Cambridge, called W<sup>a</sup> by Tischendorf, and believed by him to be of the ninth century."

It will be seen that what we have been complaining of in this most disappointing completion of so valuable a work is, first, the reticence, secondly, the inconsistency, of those who have taken upon themselves the task of editing it. They ought, we think, either to have said less or more than they have done.

NICHOLAS POCCOCK.

*Lectures and Essays.* By the late William Kingdon Clifford, F.R.S. Edited by Leslie Stephen and Frederick Pollock, with an Introduction by F. Pollock. (Macmillan.)

[First Notice.]

THESE volumes, the publication of which is due to the labours of two pairs of friendly and thoroughly competent hands, bring together, from the reports of societies and from magazines, most of Prof. Clifford's non-mathematical Lectures and Essays. The many who were in the habit of looking out for Clifford's name in a list of popular lectures, and in the best-known of our reviews, certain that the presence of that name meant some new intellectual stimulus, will be grateful to the editors for the service they have here rendered them. Whatever the permanent value of Clifford's discussions of contemporary questions of science and philosophy, there is a freshness and a charm about his way of conceiving and presenting his subject which gives a real

literary value to these papers. Even the lectures, which, as Mr. Pollock tells us, were hardly ever written out, are not wanting in this literary attraction. And the reason of this is not far to seek. Clifford's utterances, whether spoken or written, owed their fascination less to their external finish than to the directness of the enclosed thought, to the freshness and vividness of the ideas expressed. And this kind of attraction makes itself felt almost as much when the spoken words are written down and merely read as when they are actually heard.

The intellectual traits that reveal themselves with some distinctness in these papers are made still clearer by the Introduction, which consists of a very attractive biographical sketch by Mr. Pollock, and of selections from Clifford's letters. What struck one most in reading Clifford's occasional papers was the restless versatility of his mind, its boldness in attacking new problems of thought, its wide and almost catholic interest in ideas, and its passion for truth of every kind. And these prominent characteristics are amply done justice to in the biography. One often heard Clifford's admirers say what a pity it was that he did not devote himself to his own special field of mathematics. But what is told us here leads us to think that such a course would have been impossible to Clifford. He had too much intellectual sensibility, was too easily stirred by any idea in the air, and had too wide and insatiable a curiosity, to make a good typical specialist. This was illustrated even at Cambridge, where he would, on Prof. Sylvester's authority, pretty certainly have obtained the first place in the Mathematical Tripos but for his too wide reading. In the first few years after his degree Clifford's mind, we are told, ranged through various forms of speculation, physical, metaphysical, social and ethical. He was always trying new theories:—

"He had a singular power of taking up any theory that seemed to him at all worth investigating, realising it, working it out, and making it completely his own for the time being, and yet all the while consciously holding it as an experiment, and being perfectly ready to give it up when found wanting" (vol. i., p. 12).

Nevertheless, we must not suppose that Clifford never reached any definite fixed beliefs. Through all these various intellectual tentatives he was steadily feeling his way to sure results. In his different lines of enquiry, he was aiming at a consolidation of his conclusions by help of some large uniting principles. Such principles he held that he had reached, and his papers breathe all the confidence of a mind that, though perfectly aware of the vast extent of the unknown, is conscious of resting on a firm basis of carefully ascertained truth. One may add that the biographical sketch paints Clifford's whole nature as one singularly amiable and engaging. He seems to have reserved the severity and even the bitterness that occasionally mark his writings for his public utterances: in private he was gentle, disinclined to combat, a sympathetic companion and a warm-hearted friend. More than this, he combined with an earnestness of conviction that might almost be called religious a gaiety and playfulness of mind that won for him the strong liking of all who came in



contact with him, among whom children seem to have occupied a prominent place. One can hardly wonder at his popularity with the latter after reading the exquisite bit of drollery written for children under the title "The Giant's Shoes" (p. 64). Those who had the privilege of knowing Clifford even slightly will be able to bear out the truthfulness of this delineation. It was only by those who thought they could divine the man through his writings that he was ever supposed to be violent or harsh.

Clifford's Essays fall into two groups—those which handle questions of physical science, and those which deal with properly philosophic questions, more especially ethics and metaphysics. These groups are so far connected that the scientific papers discuss for the most part those ultimate ideas of physical science, force, atoms, number, and space, which can only be treated in a philosophic spirit, and with some reference to the nature and limits of human knowledge. The love of definiteness of conception and precision of statement that marks the mathematical mind shows itself throughout the scientific expositions. Clifford's power of clear presentation was a very remarkable one. He had a way of reducing the most abstruse and complicated subject to a simple and easily intelligible form. It is possible that this rare gift of exposition in science depended on an exceptional force of visual, and more specially geometrical, imagination, by which he was enabled to see under the form of definite mental pictures what others saw only hazily. The invisible world of molecular action seemed to reveal itself to Clifford with the distinctness that belongs to the visible universe. This observation is borne out by the story told by Mr. Pollock of Clifford's clearing up to him, during their undergraduate days, some difficulty in analytical statics:—"As he spoke he appeared not to be working out a question, but simply telling what he saw" (p. 4). This faculty is strikingly exemplified in the paper on Atoms (vol. i.), which is a masterly explanation of the laws of the transmission and interruption of sound and light, the relation of the pressure of a gas to its volume and temperature, and the laws of chemical combination, by help of a few simple hypotheses respecting the structure, number, and mode of movement of atoms. The chain of reasoning, though needing close attention, can be followed by any reader of general intelligence. One wonders how many men besides Clifford would have had the courage to try such a topic with a Sunday lecture audience.

The author's views on the underlying conceptions of the physical sciences are indicated more especially in three papers of the first volume, "On Theories of the Physical Forces," "On the Aims and Instruments of Scientific Thought," and "The Philosophy of the Pure Sciences." These essays are reprints of lectures delivered before the Royal Institution and the British Association. They touch on a number of interesting problems—sometimes too lightly—and are full of suggestiveness. The meaning of the exactness and reasonableness we attribute to the order of nature is carefully examined in the end of these papers. Clifford knew of

no such thing as an absolutely universal law of nature:—

"When we say that the uniformity which we observe in the course of events is exact and universal, we mean no more than this: that we are able to state general rules which are far more exact than direct experiment, and which apply to all cases that we are at present likely to come across" (i. 141).

That is to say, scientific knowledge has a relative and practical, not an absolute, certainty. This ought to be remembered in connexion with Clifford's strong affirmations of scientific against religious propositions. He can only be called a dogmatic scientist in the sense of being sure within certain well-defined limits. Beyond these he saw as plainly as any man how precarious all extension of inference becomes.

His view of the reasonableness of nature's order is a little curious. He of course rejected the idea of purpose as supplying this element, but what is unexpected is that he equally rejected the idea of cause. He writes, "I, at least, have never yet seen any single meaning of the word [*scil.*, cause] that could be fairly applied to the whole order of nature;" and he objects, though without giving his reasons; to Prof. Bain's connexion of the idea of cause with the law of the conservation of energy (i. 151). Elsewhere (ii. 77) he writes, "The word *cause*, *πολλὰχῶς λεγόμενον*, and misleading as it is, having no legitimate place in science or philosophy, may yet be of some use in conversation," &c. It is a pity that this subject is not more thoroughly gone into; but alas! this is a remark that suggests itself very often in reading Clifford's papers. A mind so brimful of ideas as his cannot, perhaps, be expected to treat exhaustively all the subjects it touches, especially when the occasion of touching them is that of the popular exposition of a lecture-room. What he did believe respecting the order of things was that to every reasonable question respecting nature there is an intelligible answer "which either we or posterity may know." The reader may be reminded here of G. H. Lewes's later conception of the scope and nature of philosophic enquiry.

Clifford's favourite idea of the absolute uncertainty of knowledge comes out again in the first of the three papers named above, where he discusses the possibility that our apparently continuous perceptions of moving bodies are really made up of little jumps, or discontinuous impressions, like those given by the wheel of life. Yet he always combined with this philosophic doubt a firm assurance of the range of scientific certainty; and in this same paper he expounds the doctrine that "the entire history of a single particle is involved in a complete knowledge of its state at any moment," and that consequently "the history of eternity is contained in every second of time." So, too, in the third and most elaborate of these essays he is concerned to show that the laws of space and number, while something more than inductions from experience, as J. S. Mill affirms, are not absolutely universal. His views on these subjects are among the most striking of his utterances. He sets out from an examination of Kant's position, and contends that as long as the principles of the pure sciences are regarded

as universal the empirical solution, even extended by help of Mr. Spencer's doctrine of inherited knowledge, is inadequate. The real solution, according to Clifford, in the case of geometric truths, is supplied by the reasonings of Lobatchewsky, Riemann, and Helmholtz, which go to show that some of Euclid's postulates may be not strictly true of very large regions of space, while it can be shown that other postulates may be untrue "on the side of the very small," like our perception of the continuity of water or of the motion in a wheel of life.

JAMES SULLY.

*Teutonic Mythology.* By Jacob Grimm. Translated from the fourth edition, with Notes and Appendix, by James Steven Stallybrass. (W. Swan Sonnenschein & Allen.)

WHEN the Folk-lore Society was first founded, it proposed, at the suggestion of Prof. Max Müller, to undertake a translation of Jacob Grimm's *Deutsche Mythologie*. We believe that this undertaking was looked forward to by those members of the society who had promised to perform a part of the work with no slight fear and trembling. For that immortal monument of Jacob Grimm's learning is an exceedingly difficult book to translate. The translator must not only possess a thorough mastery over both German and English, but he must himself be a scholar, a comparative philologist and mythologist. Otherwise, he would never be able to fully understand, and render clearly intelligible, the wise utterances of the great master who first pointed out the right paths through so many of those wide fields of popular fiction in which explorers, unless led by the hand of a trustworthy guide, are so apt to go astray. The qualifications we have mentioned seem to be possessed by Mr. J. S. Stallybrass, and the consequence is that he has produced a translation which is an, in every way, admirable piece of work. Only the first volume has as yet appeared; but the remaining two volumes are likely, we trust, to be published before very long. When the translation is complete, accompanied by "a full classified bibliography and an accurate and detailed index to the whole work," it will, if the second and third volumes are as well interpreted as the first, reflect the greatest credit upon the translator, who has worked so intelligently and so conscientiously, and the publishers, who have had the courage to undertake so costly, it might seem so hazardous, an enterprise.

The task of bringing out the fourth edition of the *Deutsche Mythologie*, which the present translation follows, was entrusted by Grimm's heirs, after his death, to Prof. E. H. Meyer, of Berlin. To it was appended "such additional matter as the author had collected in his note-book for future use." So great was this mass of miscellaneous information that it occupies no less than 370 pages of the third volume of that edition, the various items being arranged according to the order of subjects in the book. Mr. Stallybrass proposes

"to digest this supplement, selecting the most valuable parts, and adding original articles by the editor himself and by other gentlemen who

have devoted special attention to individual branches of the science of folk-knowledge."

A few extracts from this Supplement have been given in the footnotes to the present volume, and the translator has added a few of his own—very few, but generally very much to the purpose. We may take as specimens the following. At p. 130 the text says, speaking of the days of the week,

"Byzantium had no influence over Lithuanians and Finns, and had it over a part only of the Slavs. These in their counting begin with Monday as the first day after rest; consequently Tuesday is their second and Thursday their fourth, altogether deviating from the Latin and Icelandic reckoning."

To which the translator adds in a note:—

"e.g., in Russian: 1, *voskresénie*, resurrection (but O. Sl., *ne-déla*, no-doing); 2, *ponedél'nik*, day after-no-work; 3, *vtórník*, second day; 4, *seredá*, middle; 5, *chetvérg*, fourth day; 6, *piatnitsa*, fifth day; 7, *subbóta*, Sabbath."

It is very fortunate that the task of translating the *Deutsche Mythologie* should have been undertaken by a scholar who can interpret the Slavonic as well as the other languages quoted in the text. Very much to the point, and very different from Prof. Bugge's recent etymological parallels, is Mr. Stallybrass's comparison (p. 97) of "the Slavic *volkvo*, magus," a magician or conjuror, with "the term *vólva*, which," as Grimm points out, "first denotes any magic-wielding soothsayeress, and is afterwards attached to a particular mythic *Vólva*, of whom one of the oldest Eddic songs, the *vóluspá*, treats." Of interest also is such information on the translator's part (p. 187) as that "to the Boriát Mongols beyond L. Baikal, fairy-rings in grass are 'where the sons of the lightning have danced.'" And a really valuable addition to the author's short account of the Servian Vilas is contributed by the following note of the translator at p. 436:—

"The Bulgarian *samodíva* or *samovíla* corresponds to the Servian *vila*. When the wounded Pomák cries to his 'sister' *samodíva*, she comes and cures him. The *samodívy* carry off children; and mischief wrought by the elements, by storms, &c., is ascribed to them. Like the Fates, they begitt the new born. Three *samodívy* visit the infant Jesus; one sews him a shirt, another knits him a band, and the third trims a cap for him. Some stories about them closely resemble those of the swanmaids. Stoyán finds three *samodívy* bathing, removes their clothes, restores those of the two eldest, but takes the youngest (*Mariyka*) home, and marries her. St. John christens her first child, and asks her to dance, as do the *samodívy*. But she cannot without her '*samodíviski drékhí*.' Stoyán produces them; she flies away," &c.

The original of the *Deutsche Mythologie* is no doubt possessed by many English scholars. But they will readily admit that it is a tough book to read, and a difficult one to refer to rapidly. So even they ought to welcome the present translation. To the great majority of students who occupy themselves with mythology and folk-lore, it will be a priceless boon. There will now be no excuse for mythologists who write without first consulting the great teacher whose wise utterances compare so favourably with the hasty assertions of too many recent interpreters of tradition. W. R. S. RALSTON.

*Indian Finance: Three Essays* (republished from the *Nineteenth Century*). With an Introduction and Appendix. By Henry Fawcett, M.P. (Macmillan.)

ACCORDING to a well-known story, Burke once fairly roused the House of Commons to economy by thundering out the quotation, "*parsimonia magnum vectigal*," and pronouncing *vectigal* with a short penultimate. Mr. Fawcett may claim to have won a similar success last session, when, by force of his importunity, he compelled the Indian Government to enter upon a systematic course of retrenchment. Never since the Viceroyalty of Lord Mayo, who in this as in so many other matters had the courage of his convictions, has any practical attempt been made to balance fairly the budget of India. The expenditure of the Afghan War, coming upon the top of annual losses by famine and by exchange, carried home the lesson which ordinary experience failed to teach. If the revenue is destitute of elasticity, and if heavy exceptional charges are always liable to recur, it is plain that no other means of escaping deficit is left than the deliberate cutting-down of the normal expenditure. The general system of our administration has been organised upon a too extravagant scale—not extravagant in the sense of wasteful or corrupt, but as compared with the ways and means at our disposal. To retrench an accustomed item is never agreeable, but it often becomes the duty of an honest man in private life. Figuratively speaking, India must lay down her carriage, and exchange her footman for a parlour-maid; or, if the phrase be preferred, she must travel third, instead of first, class.

Mr. Fawcett's great merit as an economist is that he has always insisted upon this simple principle, without losing himself in details. To the public, no questions of finance are attractive unless they take the form of a direct demand upon the pocket, or of a reduction in the price of a necessary commodity. Indian finance in especial is enveloped in a thick jungle of repulsive difficulties of its own. When you have converted rupees into sterling at whatever rate of exchange you please, when you have plucked the heart out of the mystery hidden in the phrase "extraordinary expenditure," you are confronted by a fundamental change in the method of keeping accounts which some new finance Minister has thought fit to introduce. At one time both sides of the balance-sheet are relieved by the transfer of important items from imperial to provincial columns; at another time they are swollen by the insertion of all the income and expenses of railway management. If any man, not an Indian official, is capable of finding his way through such obstacles, that man is Mr. Fawcett. In the volume before us he makes no pretensions to special knowledge. Indeed, he seems to pass over these difficulties as matters of detail from his present point of view. But, at the same time, he shows that he is well aware of what he is eliminating from discussion, and that he is not so acting through ignorance. His single aim is to fix the attention of the British people upon certain broad principles, which they are capable of understanding, and which it is important that they should know. His

grasp of the subject is masterful, his mode of exposition clear and free from passion. Those who have no previous knowledge may read with profit, and not altogether without pleasure; while that smaller class who have already cudgelled their brains over the same subject will thank the author both for the light which he throws and for the steadfastness with which he holds it up.

JAS. S. COTTON.

#### NEW NOVELS.

*In the Sweet Spring-time: a Love Story.* By Katherine S. Macquoid. In 3 vols. (Hurst & Blackett.)

*A Beleaguered City: a Story of the Seen and the Unseen.* By Mrs. Oliphant. (Macmillan & Co.)

*Mrs. Denys of Cote.* By Holme Lee. In 3 vols. (Smith, Elder & Co.)

*Across the Zodiac.* By Percy Greg. In 2 vols. (Trübner & Co.)

Mrs. MACQUOID's new story is a graceful and artistic piece of work, slight in actual texture, and with no attempted intricacy of plot, but pleasantly readable. She has put the love-making of which her title-page tells in the most prominent place by narrating the fortunes of two men who are in love with the same woman, and two women who are in love with the same man. In both cases, whatever the verdict of ladies may be, the male critic's sympathies go with the unsuccessful competitors, who happen to be brother and sister, and who are much more individualised and carefully drawn for us than their two rivals, whose merits, apart from good looks and good temper, have rather to be taken on trust, and who are, in any case, of a far more conventional type. There is real skill in the portraiture of the strong-willed, self-asserting, and unrefined Oliver Burridge, engineer and inventor, and of his beautiful sister, Martha, externally unlike him in being the most morbidly shy and reserved of women, and yet with an underlying family resemblance which is very cleverly indicated, without being in any way thrust on the reader's notice. There is also a good sketch of a languid fine lady and of a prematurely wise old woman of the world, aged eighteen, who rivals Lady Mary Penruddock in social ethics. The scene, save for one episode in a Yorkshire manufacturing town—which Mrs. Macquoid has done little more than outline, wisely refraining from attempting local colour—lies in London, its suburbs, and the Isle of Wight; and the sketches of landscape and atmospheric effects, which frequently recur, are not the mere padding, to be heedfully skipped, which such digressions in novels are apt to be, but careful studies with the eyes of one who knows what landscape art is, and who can notice beauties in a Thames-bank mist which others might fail to see in a sun-haze over the Alps.

The title of Mrs. Oliphant's new book appears to be borrowed from a well-known poem of Longfellow's, relating to one of the traditions of Prague, but does not correspond to the actual contents of the book. For, instead of the City of Semur being encom-



passed with a leaguer of ghosts, keeping the inhabitants pent in, contrariwise, in the weird story which she has devised, or possibly adapted from some legend, the unseen hosts of the dead-and-gone citizens pour in, after formal notice, to occupy their former places of resort, while the living inhabitants are forced to give way to them, or to retire outside the walls to such shelter as the neighbouring hamlets and detached *châteaux* can provide. The idea is a weird one, and, handled by a writer of Mrs. Oliphant's experience and skill, cannot be otherwise than effective; though as a piece of spectral literature it is scarcely equal in mere power, albeit superior in imaginative insight, to a shorter tale, based on an old Scottish tradition, which she contributed to *Blackwood* some time ago. She has adopted the plan of distributing the narrative among four persons, the *maire* of the town, who gives the principal and fullest details, his mother and wife, who give their separate experiences, and a fellow-townsmen, who supplements the original narrator's account. It is in the difference of the way in which the very same events are shown as striking minds of different orders that Mrs. Oliphant's workmanship is exhibited at its best in this volume, ranking above the mere uncanniness of the whole atmosphere of her fiction, which, though more prominent on the surface, is really an easier effect to produce. And she is right on all grounds in representing the visitation, however startling at first, when proclaimed as a formal warning, as not leaving any permanent results behind it. Whether she has been equally wise in refraining from indicating with any clearness what adequate motive is to be assigned to the apparition, and what results ought to have followed from it if it had been understood, may be disputed; but there can be no doubt that this hazy indeterminateness, obviously deliberate, adds considerably to the vague eeriness of the conception, and so far helps on the artistic aim of the book. But if a hard-headed person, of scanty imagination, were to ask, "What does it all prove?" it would not be easy to give him any reply, save that it has shown it to be possible to write a ghost-story on comparatively new lines.

The lady who is pleased to use "Holme Lee" as her pen-name has been a diligent and successful writer of fiction ever since the publication of *Kathie Brand*, now many years ago, and is the author of at least twenty works, all possessing merit. But of those known directly to ourselves, *Mrs. Denys of Cote*—this, her latest story—is also her best, ranking with *Basil Godfrey's Caprice* in dainty grace of execution, and above *Gilbert Massinger* in literary power, while having a touch of novelty in conception and execution which is, perhaps, lacking to those other tales. The story is that of the one granddaughter in a large and united family, who, though surrounded by kinsfolk of simple, albeit cultured, tastes, reproduces, through some strain of heredity, certain qualities of a worldly ancestress, and is born with much natural pride, few marked intellectual tendencies, and a keen longing for rank, wealth, and show. Disappointed in an eligible match

which she thought at her feet, while, in truth, a less striking cousin was the real object of the suitor, she hastily and secretly engages herself to a squire in her own county, more than double her age, and of bad reputation personally and ancestrally. She does this, believing him to be a man of great wealth, as the owner of large estates, and of a famous historical seat, and thus able to give her what she covets. No warnings, entreaties, or censures of her parents and kindred have any effect upon her, and she makes the marriage at the cost of homelies and affection, only to find her husband a deeply embarrassed man with much impoverished and mortgaged land, and the great old house dismantled and converted into farm buildings for nearly half a century, while some at least of the evil things said of himself everywhere prove to be not without foundation. So far, the idea, though not exactly commonplace, may readily drift into triteness and sermonising, with the picture—for which the reader looks—of the girl turning harder and sourer, and only not querulous through dread of arousing her masterful owner's temper. Nothing of the sort. The ill-omened union turns out well, and becomes one, not only of mutual affection, but, what seems far more unlikely, mutual respect. The manner in which Mr. and Mrs. Denys set themselves to the work of redeeming the estates and living down the county opposition is very skilfully told; while stress is laid on the fact that the wife's early training and surroundings have made her standard of right and wrong much higher and more trustworthy than the husband's, so that she has to work, not always too successfully, at the task of pulling him up to a higher level without preaching about it, but mellowing and ripens herself in the process. The two central characters, to which all the others are carefully subordinated, are boldly and consistently drawn; and next to them, as a typical portrait, ranks the kindly epicurean clergyman, who wishes well to all men, but has not courage to stand up for the rights of the poor against the rich. Much of the opinion of recent economists and sanitarians as to land and buildings has been ingeniously wrought into the texture of the book, in recording the regeneration of Cote and Navestock; and the only fault we have to find with the story is that we do not think the end assigned to the heroine in artistic keeping with her character and the earlier part of the narrative.

*Across the Zodiac* is one of those imaginary voyages of which Lucian was the first inventor and M. Jules Verne the most popular modern author, though it belongs more strictly to the same allegorical class as Lord Lytton's *Coming Race* and Mr. Samuel Butler's *Erewhon*, and is allied in other respects to a very clever, but now seemingly forgotten, book which appeared several years ago with the title of *Helionde*, and purported to narrate adventures in the sun. The author of the present volumes has made at the outset what can hardly be viewed as other than a mistake. After the usual introductory matter to explain how the MS. recounting the exploration fell into the editor's hands, great ingenuity and pains are spent in describing the machinery

and instruments whereby the force necessary for projecting and guiding the "Astronaut"—a word used, by-the-by, to denote the aerial ship or car itself, and not the voyager, after the analogy of "aéronaut," so that "Astroscape" would have been a better coinage—and in making the calculations for the direction and velocity of its path through the heavens. Now, these details and computations, which have clearly given Mr. Greg a great deal of trouble in working, and occupy some fifty pages of his first volume, really do nothing towards throwing an air of probability round the alleged incidents of the voyage. They are altogether too abstruse and technical for the non-scientific reader, who will either skip or be bored by them; while obviously they are naught to the astronomer, as not connoting objective and verifiable facts, nor even containing pregnant guesses at hitherto unsolved problems. Something of the wise abstinence from minute description which marks Swift's Laputan episode in *Gulliver's Travels* and the account of the habitation of the flying women in *Peter Wilkins* might, therefore, have well been observed. When the traveller at last reaches the planet Mars, the goal of his journey, then, of course, he is at liberty to give reins to his imagination, and we are ready to listen complacently to any wonders he has to tell; but mimetic science is a mistake. The book improves decidedly as it goes on, and reveals itself as a disguised social and political satire. Mr. Greg depicts Mars as a planet in which the scientific millennium has long been an established fact. Theism and the belief in a soul have been under a severely penal ban of the laws for many centuries as contrary to the teachings of positive science, and are handed down only as the esoteric tenets of a secret society of Illuminati. Communism had its turn till it ruined the planet, and had to be forcibly suppressed; and reforms were adopted which made it a utilitarian paradise. Absolute legal equality of the sexes is the rule, with the promptest facilities for divorce on the lady's side; all Mars is homogeneous in race and language and under one ruler, so that there are no wars; all heavy labour is done by machinery and domesticated animals; disease has been practically banished by centuries of consummate sanitary and therapeutic science, resulting in perfect physical health; the population is stationary and wealth generally diffused, so that there is little pauperism; and all education is from infancy to manhood and womanhood in the hands of the State, as the universal parent, while natural parents send their children to public nurseries immediately after birth, and never reclaim them. Mr. Greg's ironic faculty is exhibited in the manner in which he works out the results of all these arrangements, representing them as producing a nation of selfish cowards, who, having none but material aims and sanctions, fear death abjectly, and avowedly pursue only personal advantage in any course of action; while the issue of the artificial equality between the sexes, carried out to its strict legal consequences, is recourse to the primeval law of superior physical force, and the substitution of the relation of master and slave for that of husband and wife. The only excep-

tions to the universal paralysis of morals and weariness of life are found among the secret Theists, or Brotherhood of the Star, among whom the aerial voyager finds his place during his brief abode in the planet. Even as a story the latter part of the book is very entertaining, while to such as read between the lines, and appreciate Mr. Greg's suggested lessons, it will recal some of Mr. W. H. Mallock's most trenchant paragraphs.

RICHARD F. LITTLEDALE.

#### CURRENT LITERATURE.

*A Trip to Boerland.* By Rowland J. Atcherley, Ph.D. (R. Bentley and Son.) Here is another book on South Africa, but though it has only just appeared the tour it describes is not a very recent one. The author, having, without success, in the early part of 1877, endeavoured to promote a scheme for the formation of a trading and colonising company on a portion of the eastern coast of Africa, determined to proceed with two friends on a journey of experience. It must occur to everyone that he has put the cart before the horse, and that he would have done better to acquaint himself with the country he intended to colonise and trade with before attempting to form his company; and as he did not do so we cannot be surprised that his attempt failed. He landed at Durban in May 1877, proceeded to the Transvaal, where he tried his hand, without success, at gold-digging, and returning to Durban left it for England in April 1878. If there are still any of our readers who have any appetite left for South African travels or politics they will find much to amuse and interest in Mr. Atcherley's book. It is not always easy for writers who wish to be lively or jocose to escape flippancy and vulgarity, and we cannot entirely acquit the author of either of these faults; but on the whole he recounts his many adventures pleasantly, and gives a graphic account of the country he passed through and the people he met with. He had the satisfaction so dear to our countrymen of killing many of the larger wild animals; he slaughtered a hippopotamus, and was besieged by a rhinoceros. He describes a journey by wagon as "something like a long-continued picnic, pleasant when the weather is fine, the company agreeable, and yourself not in a hurry, but fearfully tedious under other conditions." Some one of these conditions appears generally to have prevailed. We are afraid to say how often a wagon was overturned; the wonder is that the traveller had any bones unbroken. The storms in the winter months are of constant recurrence and terrific force. On one occasion Mr. Atcherley marvellously escaped being carried away by a sudden rush of storm water on a mountain side. He stood for more than two hours on a rocky shallow which divided a foaming torrent some yards wide, and deep enough to drown an elephant, the water up to his knees, and had he moved to the right or left he must have been swept away. We have already remarked on the unanimity with which writers who are acquainted with South Africa condemn the annexation of the Transvaal, and Mr. Atcherley is no exception to the rule. His remarks on this transaction are valuable as coming from a sensible and observant man who seems to have gone to the Transvaal free from prejudice, arrived there only three months after the annexation, and was himself an eye-witness of the lawlessness and corruption which followed that high-handed measure. He exposes the intrigues which led to it, and he considers that the real cause of this, as he calls it, "inglorious acquisition" was the jealousy of the Transvaal entertained by Natal. The

Transvaal threatened to become the more important of the two.

"English capitalists began to see in it a good field for speculation; its mineral resources were great, and gold in paying quantities was being found in it—so much so, indeed, that in the year 1873 £1,000 in sovereigns were actually struck by the Transvaal Government from gold found within the confines of the Republic. A question of a railway from Delagoa Bay to Pretoria was raised, and the material for the same actually landed at Lourenço Marques, when the Natal traders and *Boër ver-neukers* (literally swindlers of Boërs) began to perceive that if they did not take a decisive step, their trade with the Transvaal would soon be lost, and their paltry harbour at Durban, where no ship over 300 tons can enter, would be unemployed excepting for their own colony—all the up-country trade being concentrated at the natural harbour for the Transvaal, that of Delagoa Bay, a large and commodious one. So they put their heads together and hatched a *casus belli* with the unfortunate Boërs, and finally, under pretence of acting for the country's good, sent up a man armed with the Queen's authority to soft-sawder and threaten and wheedle the simple peasants out of allegiance to their own flag. Petitions were got up purporting to come from the Boërs, the names appended to which were in many instances obtained upon incorrect representations; and promises of the most specious description were held out to those who looked upon the emissaries with suspicion."

Every promise made to the Boërs was broken, and Sir Theophilus Shepstone himself, when asked by our author whether a promised railway scheme would be carried out, replied that "No man having common sense would think of scaling the steeps between the low country and the plateau in such a manner."

*Songs of Home.* By Maria Herbert. (Reigate: W. Allingham; London: Simpkin, Marshall and Co.) This little volume is a really remarkable work to have been produced by the daughter of a labourer who has received no further education than that given in an ordinary village school. The poems show a real poetic insight, and a considerable gift of expression. They are generally of a religious character, and sometimes—as in "A Prayer"—display a force and intensity not often found in verses of that kind. Religious poetry generally tends towards the commonplace.

THE Rev. Prof. H. N. Hudson, the author of the well-known *Life, Art, and Characters of Shakspeare* (1872), has sent us three parts of his School and Class Series of Shakspeare's Plays (Boston: Ginn and Heath)—*The Tempest*, *King Lear*, and *Macbeth*. They are not so well got up as Mr. Rolfe's; their illustrative notes are not so full; their texts are too frequently emended; the *Macbeth* takes too freely from Shakspeare lines that are surely his, such as

"My strange and self abuse  
Is the initiate fear that wants hard use;  
We're yet but young in deed" (III, v., end).

But all the parts have the great merit of being not mere dry-as-dust illustrations of Shakspeare's words and sources, but editions of his creations as works of art, the highest poetry, the truest embodiments of life and character, that literature contains. Let anyone ask an English boy or girl trained or crammed for the Cambridge examination out of the Clarendon Press School Shaksperes, and hear how he or she got up the meanings of the words and allusions and the sources of the play but "didn't do much about the characters and poetry of it because there was nothing about that in the notes, and the teacher didn't say anything about it" (an actual answer given to the writer), and then think what the like American boy or girl, trained on the editions of Prof. Hudson or Mr. Rolfe, would have been after being forced and helped to the appreciation of every leading character and to observe the special "note" and

purpose of every play, and he will then realise what a gain the Transatlantic school-books are, and how they lead young folk quicker to Shakspeare himself. While Mr. Rolfe selects criticisms from other men and women, Prof. Hudson, in the main, writes his own, and his Introductions thus gain a unity that Mr. Rolfe's lack. Much of his criticism on Lady Macbeth is admirable, and his application to her of Schiller's line "Bold were my words, because my deeds were not," is most happy. Prof. Hudson's "note" is characterisation. Though he is not of the first order of critics, his comments are distinguished by judgment and good sense. Even Mr. Aldis Wright, who warns his readers against "sign-post criticism," commends Prof. Hudson's. We do so too. But, in future, we wish Mr. Hudson would not confuse his readers by printing the genuine quotations and the spurious (as he considers) lines in one and the same italic type (see p. 153, &c.).

WITH an energy worthy of a better cause Mr. Allan Park Paton goes on publishing the parts of his *Hamnet Shakspeare* on a theory that every page of his text disproves—namely, that the capitals of the First Folio are, in most plays, Shakspeare's own, and show on what words he placed emphasis as he read his own works. Let us try this theory by a few chance passages from the present part v., *The Winter's Tale*, which Mr. Paton has found to contain more than twice as many emphatic capitals as the average of Shakspeare's comedies. When Hermione is condemned with gross unright by her monomaniacal husband, she says to the weeping ladies who love her,

"Do not weep (good Fools).

There is no cause"—p. 20.

Now can anyone in his senses believe that Shakspeare laid his emphasis on *Fools*, and not on *weep* and *no cause*? Again, Hermione, wishing that her father were present to see her misery, says:—

"Oh that he were here alive . . . that he did but see

The flatness of my misery; yet with eyes  
Of Pity, not Revenge"—p. 36.

Can anyone believe that Shakspeare put no emphasis on *Flatness* and *Misery*? Again, when Perdita says, p. 54,

"Not like a Corse; or if, not to be buried,  
But quick, and in mine arms,"

did not Shakspeare emphasise *Quick* as strongly as *Corse*? Let anyone compare these and the other folio capitals with Milton's really emphatic ones in his first edition of *Paradise Lost*. He will then know what emphatic capitals are. Next, as to Mr. Paton's plan of modernising the spelling of the folio. He will not spell "paire" and "lawne" as the folio does, for fear this should puzzle people; but when he comes to misprints like "You ptomis'd me a tawdry lace," "Lace for your Crpe," "Whether it like me," he leaves these (pp. 57, 59, 72), as they are not so puzzling as a final "e," we suppose. But in this he is not consistent, for the folio "Dor." He hath promis'd you more then that" (p. 293, col. 1), appears in Mr. Paton's text as "more than that" (p. 57). We have a third bone to pick with Mr. Paton. If there is one thing well known by all competent students about the history of the Blackfriars and Globe Theatres, it is that the documents about James Burbage building the Blackfriars in 1574, Shakspeare being a shareholder in it in 1589, and the Lord Chamberlain's building the Globe in 1594 are rank forgeries. And yet Mr. Paton sets them all down as gospel, as if Madden, Brewer, Hardy, Staunton, &c., &c., had never lived and judged. We have contemporary evidence, too, that the Globe was built in 1598-99 out of part



of the pulled-down materials of Burbage's "Theatre" in Shoreditch. Further, though the date of *Julius Caesar* is fixed to 1601 at latest by Weever's allusion to it, as well as by the character of its metre, style, and thought, and its links with *Hamlet*, yet here we have Mr. Paton putting it down as one of the plays of "these last quiet years (probably from about 1610 to 1616) in New Place." We do think we may fairly ask Mr. Paton to look about him a little more before writing another Introduction to a play of Shakspeare's.

*The Educational Year Book for 1880*, (Cassell, Petter, Galpin and Co.) Last year we had occasion, in noticing the first appearance of this annual publication, to make certain objections to its plan, and to point out some grave omissions of fact. These defects were pardonable, or at least easily intelligible, in the case of a new publication dealing with a mass of material so heterogeneous as that furnished by the statistics and resources of English secondary education. It is pleasant to be able to record that the new volume is greatly improved, and that its plan has been remodelled and rendered more logical and comprehensive. We have tested it in several ways, and find it much fuller and more exact than its predecessor. Its classification of schools is much more judicious; and the *vue d'ensemble* which it gives of the means of higher education for girls is specially complete and valuable. On the whole, this book is a long way in advance of any previous scholastic directory. Its plan excludes all reference to primary schools and to the Education Department; and takes no cognisance of private establishments. It concerns itself only with those institutions of a public character in the United Kingdom which provide secondary and superior education, and seeks to give full information respecting their government, their course of instruction, their fees, their resources, and the conditions of admission. This object has been attained with a skill and conscientious diligence which fully entitle the *Year Book* to public favour.

#### NOTES AND NEWS.

THE "Travers" Lecture, which Sir Travers Twiss has consented to deliver at the London Institution on Thursday, February 19, under the title of "The Laws of the Crusaders in Cyprus," will be on the subject of the early history of the island, and on its laws and constitution before it came under the dominion of the Turks.

MR. JOHN HOGG has in the press an entirely new work on Poe, by Mr. J. H. Ingram, entitled *Edgar Allan Poe: his Life, Letters, and Opinions*. This is the exhaustive Life of the American poet upon which Mr. Ingram is known to have been so long engaged, and in preparing which he has, it is said, obtained much valuable assistance from the late Mrs. Whitman, the late Mrs. Houghton, the poet's "Annie," Mrs. Shelton, John Neal, Mrs. Gore Nichols, "Stella," the Poes of Baltimore, Col. Preston, and many others. The work promises to contain a very large amount of biographical material not hitherto made public, including, beside other matters of interest, more than forty new letters, much fresh information about Poe's parentage, his early life in England and America, his school days, his University and West Point career, adventures in Europe, literary transactions, *affaires de cœur*, a full account of the Dunn English libel and the poet's rejoinder, an explanation of the cause which drove him to stimulants, &c. The work will be issued in two volumes, with new portrait, facsimile, &c.

MESSRS. SAMPSON LOW AND Co. are about to publish *The National Music of the World*, a

posthumous work of the late Henry F. Chorley, edited by his biographer, Mr. H. G. Hewlett. It contains the substance of four lectures delivered at the Royal Institution in 1862, and subsequently at Manchester and Birmingham, which, with considerable additions, the author was preparing for publication shortly before his death. The bulk of the musical illustrations which accompanied the lectures will be reproduced.

MESSRS. W. SWAN SONNENSCHN AND ALLEN will issue, in the course of a few weeks, a little manual of Logic by Mr. Alfred Milnes, M.A., entitled *Elementary Notions of Logic: being the Logic of the First Figure, designed as Prolegomena to the Study of Geometry*. It will be illustrated by a large number of figures, and will form a volume of this firm's series of Science Primers. We understand that Mr. Milnes has also in preparation a short treatise on Political Economy.

WE have dwelt more than once during the last few months on the improvements which have been introduced into the management of the Reading-Room at the British Museum. We return to the subject now for the purpose of acknowledging with gratitude another boon which has been conferred by the Trustees on the reading world. For some time readers unable to attend at the Museum during the day have been permitted to leave, after four o'clock, the tickets of the book they wanted to consult, and to return on the following day with the knowledge that the volume would be ready for their use. This practice has now been legalised, and special tickets of a distinctive colour have been provided for the use of gentlemen desirous of availing themselves of the treasures of the Museum in this novel fashion. The alteration will also have the effect of spreading over the whole of the day the work of the attendants engaged in fetching volumes from the interior of the building. It only remains now for the frequenters of the Museum to express, in a practical manner, their appreciation of these gratifying changes in its working.

UNDER the title of *Who was the Founder of Sunday Schools?* Messrs. Moxon, Saunders and Co. will issue a reprint of Mr. Townshend Mayer's article "On the Origin and Growth of Sunday Schools in England," which appeared two years ago in the *London Quarterly Review*. The article will be considerably enlarged and embellished with two interesting portraits—one of Robert Raikes, and one of his prompter and coadjutor, the Rev. Thomas Stock. Mr. Townshend Mayer has devoted considerable attention to this subject, and has made many researches locally and in London during the last twenty years.

MESSRS. G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS will publish shortly a volume of *Literary Essays* by the late Bayard Taylor.

A FEW weeks ago we announced that Messrs. Griffith and Farran were about to publish a book by Mrs. J. F. B. Firth entitled *More than Coronets*. The publishers now inform us that the title has been taken for a serial tale at present appearing in the *Girls' Own Paper*, and they will therefore publish Mrs. Firth's story under the title of *Kind Hearts*. This and the recent complications in respect of the title of Miss Braddon's latest novel point strongly to the necessity of some method of alphabetically registering the titles of all books published, so that authors and publishers may be certain that they are not adopting titles already in existence. We trust that in any future legislation on the copyright question some scheme of accomplishing this will be included.

MESSRS. GEORGE BELL AND SONS, of York Street, Covent Garden, are about to publish a

new contribution to the evolution theory, in which the author undertakes to reconcile the realities of science with the truths of religion. The views enunciated may be partly gathered from the title, which reads as follows:—*The Constitution of the Earth: being an Interpretation of the Laws of God in Creation, by which the Earth and its Organic Life have been derived from the Sun by a Progressive Development*. The author argues that the evolution of species is only part of a plan of creation by which the entire globe has undergone great constitutional changes.

THE announcement of Mr. Ruskin's lecture at the London Institution has caused so many applications for admission from non-members that, to allow tickets to be issued to them, he has consented to give the lecture both on March 17 at five p.m. and March 23 at seven p.m.

PROF. FLEGLER, of the Germanisches Museum at Nürnberg, has just completed a *History of Democracy*, on which he has long been occupied.

THE ninth annual Report of the Leeds Public Library shows a satisfactory increase in the number of borrowers. The most important addition to the Reference Library consists of a most valuable and rare collection of standard works of natural history, containing over 700 volumes. The total number of volumes in the whole of the libraries is 94,128.

WE are glad to notice the appearance of a second edition of the Baroness Bülow's book, *Child and Child Nature* (W. Swan Sonnenschein and Allen), of which we spoke favourably in our issue of September 27 last.

A LITERARY curiosity and *jeu d'esprit* has just been published at Amsterdam. It consists of three short stories, possessing the peculiarity that in each of them only one vowel is employed, in the first *a*, in the second *e*, and in the third *o*, according to which the stories are entitled "A-Saga," "E-Legende," "O-Sprook." In the Dutch language only would such a feat be possible. The authors of these *tours de force* are the philologists Prof. Boscha, Dr. Jacob van Leuness, and Dr. van der Hoeren, all three now dead, the little stories having lain unpublished for more than ten years.

A SERIAL issue of *The New Testament Commentary for English Readers*, by Bishop Ellicott, will be commenced next month by Messrs. Cassell, Petter, Galpin and Co.

WE have received *Sonnets and Songs*, by Emily Pfeiffer, new edition (O. Kegan Paul and Co.); *St. Albans Diocesan Calendar, 1879* (Griffith and Farran); *The Influence of Colloids upon Crystalline Form and Cohesion*, by W. M. Ord (Stanford); *Melbourne University Calendar for the Academic Years 1878-1880*; *Carl Ritter's Briefwechsel mit Joh. Fried. Ludw. Hausmann*, hrsg. v. J. E. Wappäus (Leipzig: Hinrichs); *United States Commission of Fish and Fisheries Report for 1877* (Washington: Government Printing Office); *Guide to the Churches of London and its Suburbs*, by O. Mackeson (Metzler); *Zur Theorie der Wechselwirkung zwischen Leib und Seele*, von C. S. Cornelius (Halle-a.-S.: Nebert); *The Railway Diary and Official Directory, 1880* (McCorquodale); *Octavius Perin-chief*, by C. Lanman (Washington: Anglim); *Histoire élémentaire de la Littérature française*, par Jean Fleury, seconde édition (Paris: Plon); *Caesar: a Dramatic Study*, by H. Peterson (Philadelphia: Peterson); *Robin's Carol*, and what came of it, ed. C. Bullock (Hand and Heart office); &c.

## MAGAZINES AND REVIEWS.

WITH the exception of one article there is little in the current number of the *Quarterly* to excite the curious or to instruct the student. The review of Canon Ashwell's unfinished memoir of Bishop Wilberforce may possibly amuse the world by its frank revelations of diocesan business at Ouddesdon, and gratify society by some fresh anecdotes of the Bishop's playfulness and vivacity. In the summary of Prince Metternich's career are some shrewd remarks on his aims and motives. The critic has neither been deluded by the diplomatist's fulsome appeals to the integrity of his conscience nor convinced of the uniform wisdom of his policy. But the article which gives a character to the number is that which describes Lord Bolingbroke's early life and his measures as a Minister of the Crown. It is full of fire, and has evidently been composed at a white heat. Perhaps, from an artistic point of view, the merits of the article would have been enhanced by the excision of some of its elaborate antitheses. Both the language and opinions may not unfrequently be accused of exaggeration, but the reader will be induced to pardon all faults for the sake of the vigour of expression and the thoroughness of the condemnation of Bolingbroke's private and official conduct. "We have little respect for the public conduct of Bolingbroke; we have no liking for his personal character; we regard his political writings with suspicion and his metaphysical writings with abhorrence," are the opening words of the review, and they strike the keynote throughout. His domestic policy is described as naught but intrigue in the palace, and in the senate ostentatious profession of principles which he despised in his heart. His negotiations with foreign Ministers are full of lying and equivocation; the transactions which preceded the Treaty of Utrecht remain as "an everlasting monument of his genius and his infamy." Is it to counterbalance the effect of this fierce exposure of Bolingbroke's political life that the reviewer styles him "as an essayist not inferior to his master, Seneca, as a political satirist second only to Junius," with the additional praise that "as a letter-writer he ranks with Pliny and Cicero?" In the mind of every student of English literature the genius of Swift will rise at once to recollection as dwarfing into insignificance Bolingbroke's talents in political satire. The reviewer is happier in his praises of the Tory statesman's influence on English prose. Although the great masters of prose composition who are now living in our midst have not borrowed their merits directly from St. John, the characteristics of his style are reproduced in their writings through the imitations of Burke and Goldsmith. Those illustrious men were his avowed disciples, and through their works, which are read and re-read, while his are buried in obscurity, perhaps without hope of resurrection, the charm of his language has filtered down to modern times. The notice of Bolingbroke is the first in the number, and it will be the last to linger in the reader's remembrance.

The *Journal of the National Indian Association* (O. Kegan Paul and Co.) prints the prospectus of a scheme for founding in Bengal an institution to teach the Ayur Veda, or primitive medical system of the Hindus. Besides a staff of teachers and payments to poor students, the scheme contemplates a charitable dispensary and a garden for medicinal herbs. The essence of the project is that science and drugs alike shall be indigenous. The same periodical also records the death of the Nawab Amir Ali, Khan Bahadur, one of the foremost Mohammedan gentlemen in Bengal. An excellent Persian scholar, he wrote several books in that language, including *Amir-namah* (a History of the British

Administration in India), *Wazir-namah* (a History of the Oudh dynasty), and *Baring-namah* (a History of Lord Northbrook's Administration).

IN the *Nineteenth Century* an article on "The Present Conditions of Art," by Mr. G. F. Watts, is lengthy and thoughtful, if, like too many similar discussions, it leaves us very much where it found us. It is written with gravity becoming the creator of so many weighty and learned designs; and the thought which is its chief burden—a thought not too hopeful for the future of our art—is put before us plainly if with no highly trained power of literary expression. Indeed, the paper is discursive, and might have been read at a social science meeting or other such gathering for "extra-Parliamentary utterance." Mr. Watts wisely urges a cultivation of the sense of beauty as one of the things likeliest to put us into condition to appreciate the higher sort of art and its value to us in life. With the present common blindness to what is beautiful in line and colour in the objects that meet our eyes daily, it is difficult to estimate at their proper value the refinements of the artist who deals with line and colour in his pictures. This is certainly true. We are surrounded no doubt by ugliness, and Mr. Watts cites our dress clothes as a case to the point:—

"The ugliness of most of our modern habits is most remarkable. A well-dressed gentleman ready for dinner or attired for any ceremony is a pitiable example—his vesture nearly formless and quite foldless, if he can have his will. His legs, unshapen props; his shirt front, a void; his dress coat, an unspeakable piece of ignobleness. Put it into sculpture, and see the result."

Mr. Watts further inveighs against the dress of our women, but forgets that in this matter something has already been done.

*Macmillan's Magazine* contains a paper on "Stage Anomalies" by Mr. Sutherland Edwards, who has several good stories to tell, and is quite as entertaining as he is instructive.

*Time*, to judge from the recent numbers—we mean those for January and February—can no longer be considered an amalgam of the *Nineteenth Century* and the old *Household Words*. Its serious articles are fewer, and it goes in for agreeable gossip as well as for bright writing. That was a very clever prophetic sketch of what follows Lord Beaconsfield's death that appeared in the last number; and in the present one there is Mr. Escott's paper and Mr. Scot Henderson's, and an amusing addition to the series known as "Our Doctors." But "Mr. Orie Clappole," with his Louis Seize furniture, his Sevres, and his "younger Court," might have figured at once in the *World* as a social "Celebrity at Home." Why not "Mr. Oscar Clayton in Harley Street"?

## OBITUARY.

MR. G. P. R. PULMAN.

THE lovers of topographical and dialect literature will regret the loss of Mr. George Philip Rigney Pulman, who died at the Hermitage, Uplyme, on the 3rd inst. Mr. Pulman was engaged for the greater part of his life in superintending the management of *Pulman's Weekly News and Advertiser*, a paper which enjoyed a considerable circulation in the districts of Dorset and Devon surrounding the agricultural towns of Crewkerne and Axminster. This paper was started by Mr. Pulman at Crewkerne in 1857, and for more than twenty years it was owned and edited by him. He was throughout his life an enthusiastic follower of the sport of angling, and found in the waters of the Axe abundant opportunities for his favourite pastime. It was in connexion with

this alluring practice that he made his first appearance as an author. His little volume of *Rustic Sketches; or, Poems on Angling* was published originally in 1842. It reached its third edition in 1871. The same honour was accorded in 1851 to his *Vade-mecum of Fly-fishing for Trout*. Mr. Pulman published in 1857 a lecture on the *Names of Places in the West of England*. The Song of Solomon has been a favourite subject of translation into the local dialects of this country, chiefly at the instigation of Prince Louis-Lucien Bonaparte. Mr. Pulman's version in the dialect of East Devonshire was issued in 1860. Of the lovely scenery on the borders of Dorset and Devon he was an ardent admirer, and was never weary of recounting its charms. A narrative of some of his ramblings and roamings in English scenery appeared in 1870, and when, in after-life, he wandered farther a-field in the countries of France, Switzerland, and Belgium, he published a companion volume descriptive of his travels. But the greatest achievement of his literary life was the volume which he published under the misleading title of *The Book of the Axe*. It is a well-known story in the book-world that Mr. Ruskin's *Notes on Sheep-folds* was purchased by the members of a farmers' club under the impression that it dealt with husbandry, and possibly some timber merchants may have ordered Mr. Pulman's volume under the mistaken idea that it related to the felling of trees. In reality, it is a description of the parishes and famous houses which line the banks of the River Axe in its course ere it falls into the sea at Seaton. Two houses of world-wide fame are situated upon that river. Ford Abbey, which Bentham rented, and at which Mr. John Stuart Mill (as all readers of his Autobiography will remember) spent some of the early years of his life with the happiest results, still retains the characteristics of Queen Anne's time. The small house of Ashe, in which the great Duke of Marlborough drew his first breath, has long been occupied by the family of a farmer. Mr. Pulman's topographical volume on this district was received with an extraordinary degree of popularity. The first impression appeared in 1854; the fourth in 1875. W. P. COURTNEY.

M. EUGÈNE BERSOT, head of the Ecole Normale Supérieure, has just died at Paris, aged sixty-four years. He was Victor Cousin's secretary in his youth, and had won a distinguished place in the educational world. After the *coup d'état* he obeyed his liberal convictions, which forbade him to approve the Empire, and he refused to take the oaths. He then became connected with the *Journal des Débats*, to which he contributed many articles on moral philosophy. His doctrines were those of the Scotch school, i.e., of Thomas Reid and Dugald Stewart, as made known in France by Jouffroy. M. Bersot thus expended his energies on a host of little occasional essays, very few of which have appeared in a collective form. After the war of 1870 M. Jules Simon, on becoming a Minister, appointed M. Bersot head of the Ecole Normale. This famous school, which was intended to form professors, has turned out many excellent writers. MM. Taine, About, Sarcy, Prévost-Paradol, J. J. Weiss, Edouard Hervé—to mention only the most popular—were its pupils. M. Bersot's term of office was remarkable for his rare qualities of discernment in the art of developing and controlling the minds of the pupils. He died of a cancer in the cheek, and supported his sufferings with rare stoicism. He was a very excellent man, and a man of great literary taste, and the French press has shown but one opinion as to his merits.

THE death is also announced of the Rev. William Calvert, author of *The Wife's Manual*, &c.; of the Rev. Robert Henniker, author of *Trifles*



for Travellers; of Gen. Morin, member of the Institute, author of *Leçons de Mécanique pratique*, &c.; and of M. Tchernichersky, the translator of Mill's *Political Economy*, and author of a work on the Commune in Russia, and of a novel entitled *What is to be done?* embodying Nihilist ideas.

## SELECTED BOOKS.

## General Literature.

- CAMERON, V. L. *Our Future Highway*. Macmillan. 21s.  
COTTEAU, E. *Promenade dans l'Inde et à Ceylan*. Paris: Plon. 4 fr.  
ENRICH, D. *Aus Palästina u. Babylon. Eine Sammlg. v. Sagen, Legenden, Allegorien, u. s. w., aus Talmud u. Midrasch*. Wien: Hölder. 6 M.  
FOURNIER, E. *Souvenirs poétiques de l'Ecole romantique (1825-40)*. Paris: Lapeyre. 3 fr. 50 c.  
GAUTIER, Théophile. *Fusains et Eaux-fortes*. Paris: Charpentier. 3 fr. 50 c.  
GLAISTER, H. *Needlework*. ("Art at Home" Series.) Macmillan. 2s. 6d.  
HAYARD, H. *L'Art et les Artistes hollandais*. T. 2. Les Palambdes Govert Flinck. Paris: Quantin. 10 fr.  
JAGWITZ, F. v. *Von Plewna bis Adrianopol. Geschichte der 2. Hälfte 1. russisch-türk. Kriege 1877-78*. Berlin: Luckhardt. 8 M.  
LECOQ, G. *Molière et le Théâtre en Province*. Paris: Lepin. 2 fr. 50 c.  
LE VASSEUR, A. *Croquis contemporains. Pointes d'écus de Louisie Abéma. 1<sup>re</sup> Livr.* Paris: V<sup>o</sup> Cadart. 10 fr.  
RICHER, L. *Wandmalereien aus Pompeji*. 2. Lfg. Berlin: Wasmuth. 36 M.

## Theology.

LIBER psalmorum. Textum masoreticum accuratissime expressit, e fortibus Masorae varie illustravit, notis criticis confirmavit S. Baer. Leipzig: Tauchnitz. 1 M. 50 Pf.

## History.

- BOURELLY, W. *Le Maréchal de Fabert: Etude historique d'après ses Lettres et des Pibces inédites*. Paris: Didier. 7 fr. 50 c.  
BREDINGER, M. *Vorlesungen üb. englische Verfassungsgeschichte*. Wien: Koenig. 9 M.  
CALONNE, Le Baron A. de. *La Vie municipale au XV<sup>e</sup> Siècle dans le Nord de la France*. Paris: Didier. 7 fr.  
MASSON, D. *Milton's Life, and History of his Time*. Vol. VI. Macmillan. 21s.  
RAUSCH, K. *Die burgundische Heirat Maximilians I.* Wien: Koenig. 6 M.  
STICHEL, U. *Registrum subditi clero Thuringiae anno 1506 impositi*. Jena: Frommann. 4 M.  
UNTERSUCHUNGEN aus der alten Geschichte. 1. Hft. Wien: Koenig. 1 M. 60 Pf.

## Physical Science and Philosophy.

- BUCHNAU, F. *Kritisches Verzeichniss aller bis jetzt beschriebenen Jungaeen*. Bremen: Müller. 2 M. 40 Pf.  
DEWITZ, H. *Afrikanische Tagessmutterlinge*. Leipzig: Engelmann. 5 M.  
FRITZSCH, v. *Beiträge zur Geognosie d. Balkan*. Halle: Schmidt. 1 M.  
KREKENBERG, O. F. W. *Vergleichend-physiologische Studien an den Küsten der Adria*. 2. Abth. Heidelberg: Winter. 4 M.  
MCOSH, James. *The Emotions*. Macmillan. 9s.  
MARTIN, Ch. *Gesammelte kleinere Schriften naturwissenschaftlichen Inhalts*. 1. Bd. Basel: Schweighäuser. 8 M.  
NAVILLE, E. *La Logique de l'Hypothèse*. Paris: Germer Baillière. 5 fr.  
REYNDIN, F. u. E. NOLTING. *Ueb. die Constitution d. Naphthalins u. seiner Abkömmlinge*. Basel: Georg. 3 M. 20 Pf.

## Philology, &amp;c.

- BANG, A. C. *Völuspá og de Sibylliske Orakler*. Christiania: Dybwad. 9d.  
BORTCHER, G. *Die Wolfram-Literatur seit Lachmann*. Berlin: Weber. 1 M. 60 Pf.  
LIEBLIN, L. *Notice sur les Monuments égyptiens trouvés en Sardaigne*. Christiania: Dybwad. 1s. 6d.  
THEODORIS reliquiae. Ed. J. Sitzer. Heidelberg: Winter. 4 M. 80 Pf.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## THE "WALDENSIAN" VERSION OF THE LORD'S PRAYER.

9 Norfolk Terrace, Baywater, W.: Feb. 9, 1880.

I am not aware of any collection of the Lord's Prayer immediately anterior to that of 1700 mentioned by Mr. Donald Masson (see the ACADEMY of last week), except one of 1680, reprinted in 1792, and having this title:—*Oratio Orationum. SS. Orationis Dominice Versiones praefer authenticam ferè [fermè in the bastard title] centum eaeque longè emendatius quam antehac et è probatissimis Auctoribus potius quàm prioribus Collectionibus, jamque singulae genuinis linguae suae characteribus adeoque magnam partem ex aere ad editionem à Barnimò Hagio traditae, editaeque à Thoma Ludckenio, Solqv. March. Berolini, ex officina*

*Rungiana, Anno 1680*. It is a small quarto of sixty-four pages, besides sixteen pages without number.

In this collection no Waldensian translation appears, and this shows where the egregious blunder of the Waldensian-Celtic dialect began.

L.-L. BONAPARTE.

## "GRIFFITH ROBERTS' WELSH GRAMMAR."

Taunton: Feb. 6, 1880.

I have been favoured with a communication from Prince Louis-Lucien Bonaparte relative to the above work, which may be of interest to some readers of the ACADEMY. In the course of the discussion carried on in *Bye-gones* some months ago, and noticed in the ACADEMY, it was stated that no mention of Milan is anywhere found in the work. This is, of course, true in the sense intended; there is no mention of Milan in the body of the Grammar; but his Highness observes that it is not strictly correct as regards the entire work, and calls attention to a number of verses in one of the alliterative compositions included in that part called *Symblen yr Abostolion* (the "Symbolum" or Creed of the Apostles), in which there is an interesting reference to Milan. The composition in which the reference occurs, and another in the same collection, are addressed to one "William Parri," who is described as at that time travelling on the Continent. The verses referred to, which appear on p. 51, describe the route he would take as follows:—

"A mynd uchod mewn dichell,  
i weled byd, i wlad bell.  
i phraing gida'r ifainc draw,  
i lawr eidal, i rodiaw.  
o'r fan hwnt, i Rufain hen,  
wedi ymwled, a Mulen."

That is, the writer imagines the traveller as "going in guile to a distant land to see the world; to France with the young afar, to the soil of Italy to roam; from yonder spot to old Rome, after a visit to Milan." During the "visit to Milan" the traveller would doubtless make the acquaintance of his distinguished countryman, Griffith Roberts; at any rate, the publication of these "poems" in this collection points to some intimacy between them.

This "William Parri" was probably no other than Dr. William Parry, the confidential agent of Lord Bursleigh. Dr. Parry was for a time employed by the English Government as a spy to collect secret information about the English Roman Catholics on the Continent. But having gone over to the Church of Rome, he returned to England, it is said, in 1583, and entering Parliament as member for Queenborough boldly advocated the cause of his co-religionists. He was tried on a charge of high treason February 25, 1584-85, and executed on March 2 following.

In the account given of Dr. Parry in Williams' Biographical Dictionary there is some confusion with regard to the dates. It is there said that he left England in 1588; but this is inconsistent with the statement that he returned in 1583, and was executed in 1585. But whatever the exact date of his visit to the Continent, if it is right to identify him with the subject of these "poems," it will prove that the "Symblen" was not printed until some years (perhaps twenty or more) after the first part of the Grammar—i.e., after 1567.

The same seems likely also from the fact that the collection includes poems by Sion Tudur, who only graduated as a "disciple" in 1568.

The two compositions addressed to "Parri" in the "Symblen" have attached to them only the initials of the author, "S. T.," possibly as a precautionary measure, to avoid compromising him as the friend of a man executed on a charge of treason.

THOMAS POWELL.

## THE LATE MR. W. NASSAU SENIOR.

Belfast: Feb. 9, 1880.

A misprint in my review of Mr. Bagehot's *Economic Studies* in the last number of the ACADEMY does an injustice to Mr. Senior, for whose name that of Mr. Lewis was put as one of the chief English luminaries in political economy when Mr. Bagehot's studies of the science began. Sir George Lewis was then Mr. Lewis, and was no doubt an expert and able economist, but he cannot be said to have taken rank among economic luminaries.

T. E. C. LESLIE.

## FUTURE EXCAVATIONS IN EGYPT.

Westbury-on-Trym: Feb. 7, 1880.

The text of Mariette Pasha's *Mémoire* read before the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres\* having reached me *in extenso*, I hasten to add a few lines to my former note on this subject. The *Mémoire* hints at the possible solution of many problems connected with the early dynasties. Of these I will take but three.

1. *The Site of This, or Teni*.—It used to be M. Mariette's opinion that the site of Teni was marked by a vast, crude-brick enclosure a little way to the north of Abydos (see Mariette's *Itinéraire*, 1869); but he now suggests that Girgeh (a modern town of some importance, about eight kilometres below Abydos on the left bank of the Nile) may possibly have succeeded to the earliest of Egyptian capitals. This conjecture has so much to recommend it that it is surprising it should not have been hazarded before. Girgeh stands high upon a foundation of ancient mounds; and in the mountain facing the town, on the right bank of the river, are found a number of rock-out tombs hitherto unexplored, all of which belonged to priests and functionaries of Teni devoted to the cult of Anhour—that ancient local divinity who was to Teni what Osiris was to Abydos. M. Mariette believes that this site will yield a harvest of inscriptions relating to the First and Second Dynasties. To this (bearing in mind the persistence of local handicrafts in the East) I venture to add another link of evidence. Teni was famous from earliest tradition for its purple dyes; and a certain percentage of the population of Girgeh pursue that industry to the present day. The Nile traveller constantly sees the dyers coming down to the water's edge with "purple stained" hands and arms, to perform their ablutions before prayer.

2. *The Wall-decorations of Tombs of the Ancient Empire*.—These wall-decorations are invariably of a pastoral character. The deceased sows, reaps, fishes, hunts, counts his flocks, and leads, apparently, a life of Arcadian peace and plenty. Till now, it has been believed that these scenes represented the actual life of the person whose tomb they adorned; scenes somewhat idealised, perhaps, but valuable as indications of the political and social condition of Egypt some six or seven thousand years ago. M. Mariette dispels that pleasant illusion. In these *tableaux*, he says, we have to do, not with the pastoral life of the time, but with the illustrations to some lost, and very early, *Book of the Dead*; and this book can only be re-constituted by means of a comparative survey of many more examples than have yet been excavated. M. Mariette's argument is essentially practical. The *tableaux*, for instance, always reproduce the same scenes and events; yet the lives of all these persons—royal princes, priests, councillors, military commanders, and private individuals—could not have been so much alike. Again, in a country periodically inundated, how is it possible that every well-born Egyptian should

\* See ACADEMY, November 8, 1879.

have owned such vast numbers of farms, villages, flocks, and herds as appear in the inscriptions of this epoch? If the Ptah-hoteps and Sabous of Memphis, and their contemporaries, really owned, each upon his own estate, flocks of upwards of 121,000 cranes and 111,000 ducks, and herds of 15,000 or 16,000 oxen, where could these creatures have been kept, and how fed, when the land was one vast lake swarming with crocodiles and hippopotami? It is therefore evident, says M. Mariette, that we must here be concerned with a future state of ideal felicity. One question, however, suggests itself. How is it that in some of these tombs we find representations of workmen engaged in fashioning sepulchral statues of the deceased, to be buried with him in his tomb? Such work could have no place in the world beyond the grave. One would be glad to know how M. Mariette meets this difficulty.

3. *The Sphinx*.—Pliny averred that the Sphinx was a tomb, and that it contained the ashes of a king named Armâis. This name is evidently a version of Hor-ma-Khu (Horus-on-the-Horizon), here imaged as a human-headed lion. M. Mariette thinks that this ancient tradition may not be wholly baseless, and that there may actually exist in the body of the Sphinx, which is hewn out of the living rock, some kind of subterranean crypt or chapel. He proposes completely to clear the Sphinx and the so-called Temple of the Sphinx from the sand in which they are half buried, and to surround them with a massive wall which shall effectually preserve them for the future. So much for the exploration of this famous monument; but what about its age and origin?

"Would it not be the crowning triumph of our excavations," asks M. Mariette, "if, tracing out the extremest boundaries of Egyptian antiquity, we at last succeeded in proving, step by step, that not only does Menes chronologically precede Abraham by many centuries, but that the Sphinx dates so infinitely before the period of Menes himself that its origin is lost in the night of Time, and that its construction can only be attributed to those prehistoric rulers designated in the hieroglyphs as the Horshesu?"

Such are three out of the many problems which M. Mariette proposes to solve, if only money be forthcoming for his work. The rest are to the full as profoundly interesting and as important.

AMELIA B. EDWARDS.

#### NORSE MYTHOLOGY.

London: Feb. 10, 1880.

In your last issue, Mr. W. Fiske, supporting the theory of an alleged Kelto-Latin or Christian origin of some Eddic conceptions, says:—

"Dr. Gudbrand Vigfusson (in his Dictionary, pp. 721-22) suggested, as far back as 1873, the etymological identity of the words Sibylla and Völva—the latter being the name of the mystic prophetess of the Völuspá in the elder Edda."

This, taken with the context, evidently means that Völva also is derived from a classic word. Now, allow me to state that exactly the opposite hypothesis is brought forward in Dr. Gudbrand Vigfusson's edition of Cleasby's Icelandic-English Dictionary. We there read:—

"VÖLVA. . . . The nominative Vala is erroneous (etym. uncertain; may not the Norse Völva and the Greek *σιβυλλα* be relations?). The Greek word first occurs in Aristophanes, and then in Plato; may it not have been adopted from some Scythic tribe—for a word like this, if Greek, could hardly fail to occur in Homer? (svölva?—in the Greek the *v* would be an inserted vowel). A prophetess, sibyl, wise woman."

Thus Dr. Gudbrand Vigfusson's Dictionary suggests, not that Völva is derived from Sibyl, but, on the contrary, that the Greek word may be derived from a Skytho-Germanic word, and

that both are the offspring of a common parent stock.

In the same letter, Mr. W. Fiske, after mentioning the notion that "Balder is simply Christ," and so forth, says:—"A treatise of some interest bearing upon the subject is the *Völuspá og de Sibyllinske Orakler*, by Dr. A. Chr. Bang (Christiania, 1879)."

Perhaps it will be useful to observe, for those who consider an unbiased scientific impartiality one of the most necessary qualities for the treatment of Comparative Mythology, that Dr. A. Chr. Bang, in a theological treatise, upholds views of the strictest orthodoxy as against leading critics. I assume that the author mentioned by Mr. W. Fiske is the same who wrote *Om Kristi Opstandelses Historiske Virkelighed*, af A. Chr. Bang (Kristiania, 1878).

As to the main question at issue, we have to wait for the publication of the evidence of Dr. Bugge's views, which is at present not accessible. The general theory upheld by him was—as Mr. Alfred Nutt has shown—started and fought against a long while ago; and the special arguments upon which Dr. Bugge once more advances that theory are as yet not brought out in print. When they are, something more may have to be said on the subject.

KARL BLIND.

#### APPOINTMENTS FOR NEXT WEEK.

- MONDAY, Feb. 16, 4 p.m. Asiatic.  
5 p.m. London Institution: "Indian Religious Life," by Prof. Monier Williams.  
8 p.m. Society of Arts: "The Manufacture of India-rubber and Gutta-percha," III., by T. Bolas.  
8 p.m. Royal Academy: "The Materials of Sculpture and Architecture," by Prof. A. H. Church.  
8 p.m. Victoria Institute: A Paper by the Rev. C. Engström.  
TUESDAY, Feb. 17, 3 p.m. Royal Institution: "Physiology of Muscle," by Prof. Schöfler.  
7.45 p.m. Statistical: "On Certain Changes in the English Rates of Mortality," by T. A. Welton.  
8 p.m. Society of Arts: "Principal Causes of Disease in Tropical Countries, scientifically considered," by A. W. Mitchinson.  
8 p.m. Civil Engineers: Discussion on "Iron and Steel at Low Temperatures," and "On the Use of Asphalt and Bitumen in Engineering," by W. H. Delaunay.  
8.30 p.m. Zoological.  
WEDNESDAY, Feb. 18, 7 p.m. Meteorological.  
8 p.m. Archaeological Association: "Terra-cotta Tablets found in Assyria and Babylonia," by T. G. Pinches; "Portrait of Henry VI. in Eye Church, Suffolk," by H. Syer Cuming.  
8 p.m. Society of Arts: "The Euphrates Valley Railway," by W. P. Andrew.  
THURSDAY, Feb. 19, 3 p.m. Royal Institution: "Recent Chemical Progress," by Prof. Dewar.  
7 p.m. Numismatic.  
7 p.m. London Institution: "Laws of the Crusaders in Cyprus," by Sir Travers Twiss.  
8 p.m. Linnean: "Flora of the Kurum Valley, Afghanistan," by Dr. Alcholson; "On the Presence of a Phosphorescent Organ in Fishes," by Dr. A. Günther; "Remarks on Specimens of Myrmecodia," by J. Britten.  
8 p.m. Chemical.  
8 p.m. Historical: "An Outline History of the Hanseatic League," by Cornelius Walford; "Dabruvius, Bishop of Olmitz (1542-1553)," by the Rev. A. H. Wratislaw.  
8.30 p.m. Royal Antiquaries.  
FRIDAY, Feb. 20, 1 p.m. Geological: Anniversary.  
8 p.m. Royal Academy: "Metals, Enamels, &c., used in the Fine Arts," by Prof. A. H. Church.  
8 p.m. Philological: "On the Rhaeto-Romanic Dialect," II., by Russell Martineau.  
9 p.m. Royal Institution: "Old Violins," by the Rev. H. R. Haweis.  
SATURDAY, Feb. 21, 3 p.m. Royal Institution: "Joseph Haydn," by Prof. Pauer.

#### SCIENCE.

##### CURRENT SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE.

*Descriptive Geometry and its Applications*; consisting of seventy plates to illustrate lectures delivered at the Royal College of Science for Ireland by Thomas F. Pigot. (Dublin: Hodges, Foster and Figgis.) The plates are taken from drawings made by the students at the above-named college, and comprise most of the elementary problems of descriptive geometry; in fact, the Preface states that the book contains all the problems in this subject in Lefebvre de Fourcy's treatise, and that Bradley's *Plane and Solid Geometry* and the diagrams of the *Ecole*

*Chrétienne des Frères* have also been made use of. Besides, it contains problems in shadows (53 to 61), in stone-cutting (62 to 67), in isometric projection (68 to 70), and *plans cotés* (46 to 52). The size of the pages (17 inches by 12 inches) admits of the figures being drawn to a large scale. In most cases explanatory side-notes are appended. The book is exceedingly well adapted for its purpose.

*Plane Trigonometry and Logarithms for Schools and Colleges*. With Numerous Exercises. By John Walmsley, B.A. (C. F. Hodgson and Son.) A thoroughly good book on the subject. Mr. Walmsley has been long before the public as the writer of one of our best elementary treatises on Trigonometry, and this work contains most, if not all, of the elementary matter of former editions, with the additional feature of several new chapters, which now render it a most trustworthy as well as complete manual. The author shirks no difficulties, and, in our opinion, throws new light upon parts sometimes insufficiently treated. There is copious practice afforded to the student in the large selection of graduated exercises. At the end are appended thirty short examination papers for revision. There are, we think, no great mistakes in the text; those errors which we have detected are mostly of a typographical description.

*Methods and Theories for the Solution of Problems of Geometrical Constructions applied to 410 Problems*. By Julius Petersen, Professor at the Royal Polytechnic School at Copenhagen. Translated by Sophus Haagenesen. (Sampson Low and Co.) Prof. Petersen informs us that this work appeared for the first time in the Danish language in 1866, so that it has been well tried, and he "ventures to say that it has successfully stood the test." It is now to be procured in English, French, and German. The author thinks that problems of construction have hardly gained any foothold in schools, though they "serve well to sharpen the faculty of observation and combination." His object is "to attempt to teach the student how to attack a problem of construction." This he does by solving a number of exercises, then trying to analyse the train of ideas which lead to their solution and to classify them under general heads. His principal object is method; solutions are for the most part indicated; details are left to the teacher. There is a general introduction, then the first chapter is devoted to loci. These are treated of under the heads loci of points, multiplication of curves, method of similitude, inverse figures, loci in general, and loci of lines. The second chapter, on the transformation of the figure, treats of parallel translation, replacing, and revolution around an axis. The third chapter treats of the theory of revolution, and there is an Appendix on the intersection of arcs of circles, systems of circles, and on the possibility of solving a given problem by a straight edge and pair of compasses. This analysis will give an idea of the contents. The mode of treatment quite agrees with what we should have expected from the author of the *Theorie der Algebraischen Gleichungen*. We have so many books already on the subject of geometrical exercises that we did not expect to find much of novelty in the present work, but we are glad to be able to commend it, as there is considerable freshness in the treatment of the subject. We wish, however, as the subjects of geometry and trigonometry have been now sufficiently worked for junior students, that more attention should be devoted to the bringing out of similar manuals, doing like work for physical subjects. A word as to the translation. This is done into English, not quite such as an Englishman would write, but still it is very fairly done, and is always intelligible.



## SANSKRIT LITERATURE.

THE stream of Sanskrit publications has of late been most abundant. Leaving out of consideration mere reprints or so-called new editions of texts which have long been known to every Sanskrit scholar, there has been so much new material placed before us that life seems too short to master it all. England, Germany, France, Italy—nay, even Spain and Portugal—each sends its contributions, while in India itself a new literary activity has sprung up which floods our library with books the very titles of which were hardly known before. These native publications seem to have a market of their own in India, for few copies only reach this country, and often when a copy is wanted for our public libraries the whole edition is exhausted. These native editions are generally so cheap that it will soon be impossible to compete with them in Europe, particularly if the practice is continued (and there seems to be no remedy to stop it) of simply reprinting in India Sanskrit texts, on which European scholars have bestowed years of critical labour, without even an acknowledgment, such as it is customary to give in Europe, by putting "ex recensione Dindorffii" or "Bekkerei" on the title-page. In Europe any jury would probably give damages if it could be shown that a single misprint of the original edition had been repeated in the new edition. In India the law seems doubtful, and the native feeling is evidently that the Vedas, and Manu, and the Purāṇas belong to India, and that no Mlekkha could ever claim any proprietorship in them.

The first work we have to mention is a new Sanskrit Dictionary published by Dr. Böhtlingk. Every Sanskrit scholar knows the immense amount of labour that was bestowed by Böhtlingk, Roth, and a number of scholars associated in this undertaking, on the so-called Petersburg Dictionary. It is a true *thesaurus* of Sanskrit, but it can hardly be called a practical dictionary. In order to supply the Sanskrit student with such a work, Dr. Böhtlingk is now engaged in bringing out what he calls an abridged dictionary. In this he omits what was no doubt the most valuable part of the former work—viz., the references. Whoever wants to know the history of a Sanskrit word must therefore have recourse to the original compilation. But the student cannot altogether dispense with the new work either, because, while omitting all such references as are to be found in the former work, Dr. Böhtlingk has added references to all new words, and even to certain new meanings, not to be found in the old dictionary. In this manner the new dictionary is not only an abridgement, but also a supplement, and a most important supplement. It was by no means easy to find out what words and what meanings were given in the original dictionary, there being *addenda* and *corrigenda* to different *fasciculi*, which were afterwards collected in a separate volume. All these are now incorporated, and many new words and new meanings are added; but alas! there is again at the end of the first part of the new dictionary a large list of *Nachträge und Verbesserungen*. We must not grumble, for nothing shows better the diligence and honesty of the author and his collaborators than this constant influx of new material; but the fact remains that a conscientious student will often have to look in three different places before he can be quite satisfied whether a certain word and a certain meaning is or is not countenanced by the authority of Dr. Böhtlingk. An English translation of this work by a scholar who really understands German would be a great boon, and we are glad to hear that such a work is in contemplation.

The next work on our list is likewise a Dictionary, not Sanskrit-English, but English-Sanskrit. The first volume of this work was

noticed on a former occasion. The second volume of Mr. Anundoram Borooh's *Practical English-Sanskrit Dictionary* has long been expected, and it was hoped that it would complete the work. The first impression on examining the second volume, which has just come to hand, will therefore be one of disappointment. Instead of finishing the Dictionary, it only carries it on from "Falsification" to "Oyster," so that a third volume will be wanted before we come to the letter Z. When we look, however, more closely into the volume before us, though we do not find in it all that we expected, we find much which we did not expect, which, perhaps, we had no right to expect, but which, for all that, will be extremely welcome to all serious students of Sanskrit. Mr. Anundoram Borooh has added to this second volume of his Dictionary a supplementary treatise on what he calls "Higher Sanskrit Grammar," or Gender and Syntax—two subjects which have hitherto been much neglected by European grammarians. This supplementary treatise fills nearly three hundred pages, and will by many be considered a most valuable aid to the study of Sanskrit. The rules of gender have been fully treated by native grammarians. On syntax, too, much useful information may be gathered from Pāṇini and his successors. But Mr. Anundoram Borooh is by no means a blind follower of these teachers, and his independent judgment in these matters contrasts most favourably with the almost superstitious reverence paid to Indian grammarians by many European scholars. No one would doubt that Pāṇini's knowledge of Sanskrit was enormous, and far beyond the reach of any man now living, whether in India or in Europe. No conscientious scholar would dare to write down a single rule of Sanskrit grammar without having satisfied himself as to what Pāṇini taught on the subject. But, for all that, we must bear in mind that we should have had a grammar of Sanskrit even if Pāṇini had never lived—namely, the grammar which lives in the immense literature of India. With regard to a certain class of literature, it may indeed be held that any grammatical forms which differ from Pāṇini must be put down as grammatical blunders. The authors of certain poems looked on Pāṇini as their highest authority; and they knew of no Sanskrit except what they had learnt from him. But that does not apply to all Sanskrit literature. There was a literature before Pāṇini from which that great grammarian derived his rules, and, in this process of abstracting general rules from single passages, Pāṇini was as liable to error as we ourselves. If, therefore, we meet in the Vedic poetry forms which run counter to Pāṇini's teaching, we have no right to correct them, or exclude them from a grammar of Sanskrit. Again, there are large portions even of later Sanskrit literature of which it cannot be proved that they were composed in strict obedience to Pāṇini's rules. To brand all forms and constructions occurring in such works as blunders, because non-Pāṇinean, would be preposterous. On the contrary, all such apparently exceptional or irregular forms should be carefully collected, for in them alone will it be possible by-and-by to study that historical growth of Sanskrit which even the weight and authority of Pāṇini could not entirely repress. On all scholars, however, who, without any authority to the contrary, think they may deviate from Pāṇini's teaching, Mr. Anundoram Borooh is justly severe. If Pāṇini says distinctly (Nāpumsaka, 39, *trāntaḥ*—not, as the *ed. princ.* of the *Siddhānta-Kaumudī* reads, *satrāntaḥ*) that nouns ending in *tra* are neuter, with such exceptions as he mentions, why, he asks, should our dictionaries give *Kshattra*, a warrior, as masculine, and then confess that the word never occurs as a masculine? If, however, he

meets with passages in classical works running counter to Pāṇini, he notes them carefully. Thus *kāpa*, being a synonym of *kārmuka*, "bow," ought, according to Pāṇini, to be neuter. So it is; but there are passages in the *Mahābhārata* where *kāpa* is clearly used as a masculine, and it would be rashness to correct that epic poem according to a somewhat general rule of Pāṇini.

Mr. Anundoram Borooh is somewhat indignant at professors of Sanskrit in the great universities of England continuing to teach in their Sanskrit grammars what he shows are simply grammatical blunders, unsupported either by the authority of Pāṇini or any Sanskrit writer. Some of these, however, are most likely mere accidents, which may happen in the first edition of any grammar, but which are not likely to escape the attention of their author in subsequent editions. European scholars ought to be, and I believe most of them are, very grateful for any critical remarks which may reach them from native students. Native students of Sanskrit enjoy, of course, great advantages over their fellow-students in Europe; but it is to be regretted that they should feel tempted to assert their superiority, where it exists, in rather harsh language. For several reasons their judgment of work done by European scholars is very valuable, because entirely uninfluenced by personal considerations. But it would be more valuable still, and certainly more likely to be useful, if conveyed in a more civil form. To point out mistakes in a Sanskrit grammar is quite right; to say that the author has made a complete mess of it is hardly what Hindus used to call *sabhyā*.

Mr. Anundoram Borooh is very much surprised at the small attention that is paid to syntax in our ordinary Sanskrit grammars, and he shows by his rules, which fill more than two hundred pages, that the idea of there being no syntax in Sanskrit is simply absurd. But no one ever entertained such an idea. The reason why hitherto so little space has been allowed to syntax in Sanskrit grammars is simply that they are mostly intended for scholars familiar with the syntactical rules in Greek and Latin, and little in need for their immediate purpose of any instruction on that subject. Sanskrit syntax is in the highest degree simple and intelligible. If Sanskrit scholars had any ambition to write Sanskrit no doubt they would have to learn by heart much of what ought to be observed or avoided in prose or poetry. But Oriental scholarship differs in that respect so much from classical scholarship that it may be doubted whether some of our best scholars ever thought of writing a line of Sanskrit. As an amusement an Egyptian, or Coptic, or Syriac, or Chinese scholar may compose some lines in prose or verse; but his chief object is to understand these languages—to read, not to write them. From this point of view it may be said that there is hardly a single construction to be found in Sanskrit which a classical scholar would not at once comprehend. There are locatives absolute and genitives absolute in Sanskrit, but to anybody accustomed to absolutes absolute they tell their own tale. A school-boy may require an explanation of the dative of interest in Latin, but in Sanskrit *Kasya hitāya* would at once be understood to mean *cui bono*. There are a few constructions, no doubt, which differ from Greek and Latin and require some explanation. But even these are better learnt and appreciated by extensive reading than by learning by rote. A collection of rules and illustrations, however, such as Mr. Anundoram Borooh has given us will no doubt be highly appreciated by all who have to teach Sanskrit, particularly in India, where to be able to write good Sanskrit is still a most valuable accomplishment, and

they will probably before long find a place in so-called practical grammars for the use of beginners in England also.

We have hardly room to do more than repeat what we said on a former occasion of Mr. Anundoram Borooah's *English-Sanskrit Dictionary*. Many of his renderings are extremely happy, and the references given will be valued most highly by all who wish to satisfy themselves that the Sanskrit which is to render an English word is really an equivalent of the English idea. But there still remains the difficulty of finding a passage when we are told no more than that it is taken from Manu, from Pāṇini, or from Sāyana, and we doubt whether it would have much increased Mr. Anundoram Borooah's labours if he had given in every case, not only his authority, but likewise chapter and verse.

Though containing more of old than of new material, Mr. J. Muir's collection of Metrical Translations from Sanskrit Writers,\* now forming the eighth volume of the "Oriental Series," will be welcomed by all his friends. Few retired Indian civil servants have spent their leisure to such advantage as Mr. J. Muir. He has not only proved himself a true Maecenas, having founded several prizes for the encouragement of Indian scholarship, endowed a chair of Sanskrit at Edinburgh, and rendered pecuniary and other assistance to almost every Sanskrit student who stood in need of it, both in England and abroad, but he has himself performed most useful work in bringing before the English public the results of modern research in the field of Sanskrit literature. Why will not other civilians, who often complain so loudly that after their return to England there is nothing for them to do, follow his example, if not in his liberality, at least in settling down to some real work for which their experience in India ought to be of the greatest advantage? Mr. Muir's work, however, is not the work of a mere amateur, who thinks he can do in a few leisure hours what requires years of regular and honest labour on the part of a true scholar. His five volumes of selections from Sanskrit texts have been highly praised by competent critics, and his metrical translations have been ranked as equal to the best English poetry of the day. Such success cannot be achieved without true devotion, and we are glad to see, from the long string of capital letters which Mr. Muir now places behind his name, C.I.E., D.C.L., LL.D., Ph.D., that his labours have not been without their well-deserved reward. As to metrical translations in general, we confess that we are always somewhat afraid of them. A faithful translation in prose of an ancient text is in itself a task of enormous difficulty; the additional weight of rhyme and rhythm must often render it impossible. Mr. Muir enables us to judge for ourselves how much of literal faithfulness had to be surrendered for the sake of metre. He gives us, in many cases, a literal to compare with the metrical translation, and we shall enable our readers to judge for themselves of the loss and gain, by printing the two together. We take the very first translation, a verse from the Atharva Veda (p. 1):—

#### METRICAL.

"The happy man who once has learned to know  
The self-existent Soul, from passion pure;  
Serene, undying, ever young, secure  
From all the change that other natures show,  
Whose full perfection no defect abates,  
Whom pure essential good for ever sates—  
That man alone, no longer dreading death,  
With tranquil joy resigns his vital breath."

#### LITERAL.

"Knowing that soul who is wise (or calm), unde-

\* *Metrical Translations from Sanskrit Writers.*  
By J. Muir. (Trübner.)

caying, young, free from desire, immortal, self-existent, satisfied with the essence (of good or blessedness), and in no respect imperfect, a man does not dread death."

The words for which there is no definite authority in the original have been printed in italics. They are not many, and they are mostly in keeping with the Sanskrit. But is there not a very perceptible difference between the two utterances? And lastly, does even the prose translation render the thought of the poet quite faithfully? Was it not his purpose, first to describe Svayambhū, the self-existent Brahman, or the Supreme Self, and then to say that he who knows that Brahman to be his own self never fears death? Thus only can we account for the nominatives in the first, and the accusatives in the second, line, and thus only is there an excuse for repeating *dhīra* (intelligent) twice. We should propose, therefore, to translate:—

"Svayambhu, the self-existent, is free from desires, intelligent, immortal, satisfied in his own essence, and in no respect imperfect. He who knows Him alone to be (his own) intelligent, imperishable, and ever young self, has no fear of death."

A mere knowledge of Brahman, as the chief god or as one of many gods, would not remove the fear of death. It is only the higher knowledge that our own self rests in the Brahman or the Eternal Self that gives us the conviction of immortality, and, therefore, removes the fear of death.

But these are questions for scholars only. To the English public at large these translations will give a very good and, for most purposes, sufficiently correct representation of ancient thought in India, and prove full of instruction to all who are willing to learn even from the dark philosophers of the East.

#### VESUVIUS.

THE new phase of intermittent activity into which Vesuvius entered in November 1878 has of late increased in energy. The great crater of 1872 is now almost filled up by the scoriae and lava emitted from the small cone of 1878. A year ago this cone was not much larger than a conical iron furnace; now it has reached to a height of more than fifty feet above the outside rim of the old crater. Moreover, its dynamic force is distinctly greater than it was a year ago. Masses of glowing cinder are projected to a height of several hundred feet, and twice within the last two months sufficient lava has been emitted to run over the lowest edge of the crater in a continuous stream, which has descended as far as the Atrio del Cavallo.

The latter of these outflows we were so fortunate as to witness from within the crater on the 13th of last month. Palmieri has noticed of late that the violence of the eruption has increased at the time of the new moon. The augmented activity of December 17 was just after the new moon, as was that of January 13. A violent *tramontana* 3° centigrade below the freezing point was blowing at the time, and we were compelled to ascend on the western side, under the lee of the mountain. As we neared the summit, loud thundering noises were heard at intervals, and masses of reddish smoke drifted between us and the sun. We found the crater of 1872 almost filled up by the recent accumulations of *ejectamenta*. Two small streams of lava had recently flowed, one towards the west, the other towards the north-east. We crossed one of these, and could see the red-hot lava within two inches of the surface over which we ran. Yet it was perfectly firm. At the base of the cone of 1878 we saw a small *bocca* apparently not more than four or five feet in diameter. Within this the molten lava was furiously surging. Presently it was thrown up in a dome-shaped mass to a height of a few feet, exactly imitating some of

the small geysirs at Reykir in Iceland; and a moment later the very liquid lava flowed over the edge of the *bocca*, and ran rapidly towards the lowest edge of the crater. Clouds of vapour were disengaged from it, and the *tramontana* as it blew over it was converted into a stifling hot wind. By ten o'clock the same evening this stream, which was about twenty-five feet broad, had flowed half-way down the side of the great cone, and by one o'clock on the morning of the 14th it had reached the Atrio del Cavallo.

It is probable that if the old crater becomes completely choked up by the ejected products of the present small eruption, a paroxysmal outburst, similar to that of 1872, may be expected. The most violent eruptions have usually followed a long period of moderate activity, such as that which has intervened between the great eruption of 1872 and the present time.

The lava which recently flowed is very leucitic in character, and resembles that of 1872. The fumeroles have afforded abundant deposits of chlorides and sulphates, and the spectroscope has shown the presence of thallium and lithium. Indeed, the latter element, once considered very rare, is now believed to be one of the most widely distributed bodies.

Prof. Archangelo Scacchi, who has discovered several new minerals among the products of Vesuvius and Somma, believes that he has isolated a new elementary substance found in incrustations on the lava of 1831. A peculiar green incrustation he calls *Vesbiate of Copper*, and an orange-coloured incrustation *Vesbiate of Aluminium*. But the investigations have not been concluded, and the new element, up to the present time, has not been completely identified. The general belief among the Italian *savans* seems to be that the green incrustation is some obscure compound of copper with a known element.

The Vesuvius railway promises to be soon an accomplished fact. A portion of the rails are already laid, and a number of workmen are daily engaged upon the work. It progresses slowly, however. We saw fifteen men engaged in dragging a single beam of wood up the steep incline (32°) of the cone. The railway starts from a point situated to the west of the observatory, on that side of the cone which is least seldom subject to streams of lava.

The self-registering instruments are still at work at the Vesuvius Observatory. No alterations or improvements appear to have been made in them for some length of time, and the only addition of any note to the existing seismological instruments has been the application of the microphone to the detection of seismic movements by Prof. M. Stefano di Rossi, of Rome.

G. F. BODWELL.

#### NOTES OF TRAVEL.

THE central committee of the Swiss Alpine Club has lately received many applications from ladies for admission to its membership. As the statutes of the club have made no provision either for or against female membership, the central committee has submitted the question to the various local sections, asking for the expression of their views. The section "Mythen" in Schwyz has been the first to reply, and reports it as the unanimous conclusion of its members that there is no reason for hesitating to receive ladies into the club. The section Oberland, at its late meeting in Bern, elected Oberförster Kern as its new President. Regierungsrath Studer, the honoured "Altmeister" of the Swiss Alpine Club, the first of Swiss literary authorities upon Alpine travel and climbing, has placed an essay at the disposal of the club, in which he elucidates the widely extended "Sage" of a former glacier-pass between Grindelwald and the Valais. He believes that the "Sage" is a tradition of the



actual truth, that such a pass was known in the fifteenth, and perhaps until the sixteenth, century, and that in all probability it led from Viessch in the Valais along the Viescher glacier over the Mönchsjoeh (not over the Vieschergrat) to Grindelwald. The road was totally lost by the extraordinary and rapid "Vergletscherung" of the pass between the end of the sixteenth and beginning of the seventeenth century. Some interesting information on the intercourse between the Valais and Grindelwald, the Petronella Chapel, and the still extant bell in Grindelwald, dated 1440, give the essay the character of a contribution to local history.

THE *Mittheilungen* for February contain an extended notice of the exploration of South-Western Patagonia, carried on in 1877 by Lieuts. J. T. Rogers and E. Ibar of the Chili navy. The travellers, starting from Punta Arenas, succeeded in reaching the Lago Argentino, first fully described by Moreno in 1876. Herr von Schrenk gives an account of a journey through the Colombian state of Antioquia, accompanied by a detailed map based upon that of C. S. de Greiff and Villavéces. Herr Hassenstein, in celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the first publication of the *Mittheilungen*, has prepared a coloured diagram, exhibiting, at a glance, the maps published in that invaluable periodical. The number and variety of these maps is almost bewildering.

MESSRS. W. H. ALLEN and Co. will publish immediately *Desert Life: Recollections of an Expedition in the Soudan*, by B. Solymos (B. E. Falkenberg).

WE hear that, as soon as he has somewhat recovered from the severe illness contracted during his late explorations in India, and has worked out the results of that journey, M. Moritz Déchy, the Hungarian traveller, contemplates undertaking another expedition among the Himalayas.

MR. E. DELMAR MORGAN left last week for St. Petersburg, and will shortly start on an expedition in Central Asia. Mr. Morgan has taken with him an outfit of scientific instruments, and hopes to be able to make useful observations during his journey.

REFERRING to a note in the ACADEMY of November 8, we are glad to learn that the Church Missionary Society have received, via Zanzibar, reassuring intelligence regarding the safety of the Nyanza mission. Messrs. Pearson, Stokes, and Copplestone left Rubaga, King Mtesa's capital, for the south in June, but did not get clear of Uganda till August 28, and only reached Kagei on the south shore of Lake Victoria on September 24. Mr. Pearson was to return to Rubaga at once, but the other two went on to Uyu. There appears good reason to believe that King Mtesa's temporary hostility was mainly due to his suspicion that the reinforcements sent to join the mission by way of the Nile were secret emissaries of the Egyptian Government, of whose encroachments he is in great dread.

By the last mail from Zanzibar the International African Association have received news that M. Cambier is at length establishing the first Belgian "station" at Karema, some two degrees south of Ujiji. Karema is situated on the eastern shore of Lake Tanganyika at the head of a large bay, and was visited by Mr. H. M. Stanley during his last journey.

WE regret to learn that the third Belgian expedition which, under Mr. H. M. Stanley, is endeavouring to work its way into the centre of Africa by the River Congo has met with its first serious misfortune, one of the steam launches, taken out in pieces in the *Barga*, having been swept over the Yellala Falls and lost.

As part of the scheme for the extension of American missionary enterprise in Africa, referred to in the ACADEMY of January 3, we learn that Mr. Pinkerton, a missionary in Natal, is expected to explore the country south of the Zambesi near Mount Gorongoso, and perhaps establish a station there. This mountain is not far from Senna and near the sea. The country round is said to be very attractive, fertile, and, what is most important, very healthy.

CAPT. COLVILLE has lately arrived in Algiers from a journey in Eastern Morocco and South-Western Algeria.

IT may be interesting to record that MM. Zweifel and Moustier determined that the Falico source of the Niger rises in long.  $10^{\circ} 25'$  west of Greenwich and N. lat.  $8^{\circ} 45'$ . The Tembe source rises in W. long.  $10^{\circ} 33'$  and N. lat.  $8^{\circ} 56'$ . They have not, however, at present stated the precise position of the Tamincono source.

COMTE MEYNIERS D'ESTREY is engaged on a work entitled *La Papouasie ou Nouvelle Guinée Occidentale et ses Habitants*, based on official documents and the narratives of the most recent Dutch travellers, published by the Philological, Geographical, and Ethnographical Institute of Netherlands India at the Hague. The work will be illustrated with numerous engravings and a general map of the island, as well as several special maps of portions of Western New Guinea.

#### SCIENCE NOTES.

OUR scientific contemporary *Nature* has for the last few years been in the habit of publishing biographical notices of past and present "Scientific Worthies." These have been the work of eminent men most competent to write on their respective subjects, and have been illustrated by fine engravings by O. H. Jeens. The biography of Prof. Dumas, who is universally admitted to be one of the greatest of living scientists, is of special interest from the fact that it is written by his intimate friend, Dr. A. W. Hofmann, of Berlin, and a master of English style. Moreover, it is more lengthy (forty pages) and complete than any of the preceding biographies in this series, and the portrait is life-like. For more than thirty years Dumas has been one of the leading representatives of science in Paris, and during the same period he has taken a very active part in the public affairs of his country. He has been Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, Master of the Mint, Senator, and President of the Paris Municipal Council; and now, in his eightieth year, in full enjoyment of intellectual vigour, he still fulfils the arduous duties belonging to the Permanent Secretaryship of the Academy of Sciences. The life of such a man possesses an intense interest from every point of view, not only for the student of science, but for the general reader. Several sciences, among them chemistry, practically took their rise a century ago, and Dumas early made the acquaintance of men who had been intimate friends of Lavoisier and of the members of that grand phalanx of French savans which illuminated the last quarter of the eighteenth century.

PUBLICATION XIV. of the *Astronomische Gesellschaft* contains the fundamental catalogue for the zone observations which are intended to furnish trustworthy places of all the stars down to the ninth magnitude within the northern hemisphere of the heavens, and which have been in progress at a large number of observatories for the last ten or twelve years. Ephemerides of the apparent places of the 539 stars of the catalogue have been published for the years 1870-79; but the places adopted in these ephemerides were intended to receive final corrections before being used as fundamental

places, and though it has not been found feasible to procure in time all the new observations which, according to the original plan, were to serve for the determination of these corrections, the pressing need of coming to a settlement without further delay has induced Prof. Auwers to prepare the final catalogue from the materials at his disposal, and he has executed his task with great carefulness and circumspection. The catalogue of the 539 stars for the epoch 1875 is founded upon observations made at Pulcowa, Greenwich, Cambridge (Mass.), Leipzig, and Leiden, and will be found of great value for many astronomical purposes.

IN Publication XV. Mr. Hartwig communicates the results of heliometric measurements of the diameters of the planets Venus and Mars, made at Strassburg by means of several of the small heliometers employed in some of the expeditions for observing the transit of Venus, and he also collects and rediscusses the results of former determinations. Rejecting as untrustworthy the observations made with wire micrometers or with double-image micrometers, the errors of which have not been ascertained, he deduces from those series of observations which he considers trustworthy  $17.55''$  as the value of the diameter of Venus, seen by reflected sunlight at a distance equal to the mean distance of the earth from the sun. This value is about  $0.6''$  greater than that given by some of the measurements of the black disc of Venus made during the transit of 1874. The value of the diameter of Mars deduced by Hartwig is  $9.35''$ .

"GREAT comet passing sun northwards. Gould." Such is the despatch received by the editor of the *Astronomische Nachrichten* on February 5 from Buenos Ayres, which has set astronomical observers everywhere on the alert, and makes them long for clear skies.

THE *Mastodons of the Rhone*.—No district in France has yielded a richer harvest of mastodon relics than the Basin of the Rhone. The late Dr. Claude Jourdain obtained, at various times between the years 1835 and 1869, a remarkable collection of these proboscidean remains for the Natural History Museum of Lyons—an institution which he may be said to have created. A nobly illustrated memoir on these fossils has lately been published by Dr. Lortet and M. Ernest Chantre in the *Archives du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle de Lyon*. The mastodons of the Rhone belong to the four types of *M. Arvernensis*, *M. Borsoni*, *M. longirostris*, and *M. Turicensis* or *M. Tapiroides*. They occur in fluviatile sands and gravels, in lignites and lacustrine clays, and in tuffaceous deposits of the sub-basaltic alluvia. Some are of Miocene and others of Pliocene age. The same volume of the *Archives* contains a valuable monograph, by M. Locard, on the Fauna of the Molasse of the Lyonnais and of Dauphiné.

#### MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES.

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.—(Thursday, Feb. 5.)

EDWIN FRESHFIELD, Esq., V.-P., in the Chair.—The Rev. F. W. Bennett read a paper upon some lists of Crown jewels, and accounts of the jewel house in the reign of Charles I., in the possession of Capt. Hervey G. St. John Mildmay, of Haselgrove House, Somerset, which are noticed in the Seventh Report of the Historical MSS. Commission, p. 590. During the King's absence from London until his death, the jewel house was under the charge of Col. Carew Mildmay, who was several times called upon by Parliament to give an account of his charge; but the letters to him on the subject are still extant, endorsed "Not obeyed." He complained of the difficulty of doing so, as many of his books had been taken away, and the office was open to anyone, and made a common sitting house. The office was finally entered by force, and the

colonel committed to the Fleet. The earliest of the papers is a list of presents made by Queen Elizabeth to her principal officers and to foreign ambassadors. Several of the papers of the reign of Charles I. refer to his attempt to dispose of his plate in Holland.—Mr. Freshfield exhibited a copy of the Act of Parliament of February 2, 1659, granting immunity to those who had assisted Sir George Booth in Cheshire in the rising which was put down by Gen. Lambert. The copy in question was addressed by Lady Brereton to her brother, Col. Henry Mainwaring, in Cheshire, whose name, however, does not appear as implicated in the movement.—Canon J. C. Robertson exhibited a document belonging to the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury, being a deed settling the disputed question of the primacy of the see of Canterbury. It is attested by William I., and many bishops and others. The text will be found in William of Malmesbury's *Gesta Pontificum*, lib. i., § 27.

## FINE ART.

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES ON A TOUR IN SOUTHERN ITALY.

#### IV.

#### MAGNA GRAECIA.—II.

DESPITE the identity of names, I cannot admit that the modern Squillace, where there is not a trace to be seen of anything earlier than the Middle Ages, occupies the exact site of the ancient Scyllacium or Scylletium. Virgil's epithet, *navifragum Scyllaceum*, cannot be applied to a town so far inland as Squillace, but is more suitable to a place much closer to the sea, to the gulf to which it gave the name of "Scyllæticus Sinus." Besides, the description given by Cassiodorus (*Variar.*, xii., ep. xv. *ad Maximum*) of his native town, to which he returned to end his days, is very characteristic, and does not by any means agree with Squillace. "Civitas supra sinum Adriaticum constituta, in modum botrionis pendet in collibus. . . . Ad pedes siquidem Mosci montis saxorum visceribus excavatis." This description applies, on the contrary, with rare precision, to the ruins (consisting of foundations of Roman masonry of a somewhat late epoch) which the traveller sees hanging on to the right flank of the promontory of Stalethi, with some very fine grottoes in the neighbourhood, dug out in the rocks by the hand of man. This must have been the site of the ancient Scyllacium, the inhabitants of which retired inland, to the escarped rock of Squillace, when the coast became untenable. In this case, as in that of Capua, the emigration of the population of the town caused the transference of the name of the latter to the place where they fixed their new abode.

Of the second-rate towns between Scyllacium and Caulonia, the site of two appears certain: that of Castra Hannibalis at Soverato, and that of Coccythum at Torre Vadera on Cape Stilo, the promontory Coccythus of the ancients. As regards Mystia, however, which plays its part in the history of the Italian enterprises of Dionysius of Syracuse, and Consilinum, the question raised by these two towns is very obscure. Pliny and Pomponius Mela place them between Coccythum and Caulonia, which would make them correspond with great probability to Monasterace and Motta-Placanica; but these two authorities invert their several positions, so that if we followed Pliny we should place Consilinum at Monasterace, or, if we followed Pomponius Mela, at Motta-Placanica; and *vice versa* with Mystia. A farther complication is that there exists a modern place called Consignano, the name of which seems a mere alteration of Consilinum; but if we are guided by this similarity of name, we must, as several German scholars do not hesitate to do, transport Consilinum to the south of Caulonia, although the written evidences of antiquity place it to the north. As

to the places mentioned in the Itinerary of Antonine, I shall not attempt to determine their position. It seems to me clear that, from Coccythum to Decastadium, situated toward Cape Spartivento, the road, the stations on which are recorded in the Itinerary, must have gone off inland, passing at the foot of the mountains, or possibly even running through them; for it leaves Mystia, Caulonia, and Locri on one side, and its three stations of Succosianum, Subscivium, and Hipporum are unknown to the writers who enumerate the places on the coast.

Almost all modern geographers are quite in error in placing Caulonia at Castelvetero. That town by no means corresponds to the indications of the ancients with regard to the situation of the Achaean city founded by Typhon of Aegium, and afterwards enlarged by the Crotoniates. The latter was in the valley and close to the sea, while Castelvetero is on the summit of the heights more than five miles farther inland. In reality Castelvetero was the place of refuge to which the inhabitants of Caulonia had to retire when they abandoned their town in the eighth or ninth century. The hill of Aulone, situated between the two branches of the River Alaro, still preserves the name of the latter under its most ancient form, for Stephen of Byzantium and the *Etymologicum Magnum* inform us that the Greek city was originally called Aulon, from its situation in the valley, and that only at a later time the prefixing of a guttural changed the name to Caulonia. From the slope of this hill of Aulone, which is about four miles and a-quarter to the east of Castelvetero, the remains of the ancient Caulonia extend in succession to the sea, where it had a port, mentioned by Philostratus. They are sufficient to enable us to recognise the site, although they have been bandied about in the lower portions by the furious onslaughts of the Alaro, which, of all the *fiumare* of Calabria, produces the greatest havoc in its valley during each winter's floods.

The Alaro unmistakably preserves the name of the River Helorus, on which Diodorus Siculus states that Caulonia was built. There is great cause for astonishment in the persistency with which modern Calabrian writers identify the Alaro with the Sagras, the scene of the famous victory of 10,000 Locrians, supported by a small contingent from Rhegium, over 120,000 Crotoniates. The sole justification for this wholly untenable view is the statement of Giustiniani, that the mountain in which this torrent takes its rise is still called Sagra. But that name is absolutely unknown in the country, and the authority on which it rests is open to grave suspicion; for, in the same passage of his *Dizionario geografico del Regno di Napoli*, Giustiniani at his pleasure alters to "Caulone" the name of the mountain of La Catalana to furnish a proof of the situation of Caulonia at Castelvetero. To an alteration of a similar kind, bearing on the name of the torrent Sairano, which runs into the sea in the southern part of the Gulf of Squillace, we must assign the mention by Cluvier of a supposed Sagriano, still preserving the name of Sagras. As a matter of fact, the Alaro cannot be the Sagras, because the southern branch of that river (called Musa) being of recent formation, the ruins of Caulonia (as likewise Castelvetero) are on its right bank, while Strabo distinctly places the Sagras to the south of Caulonia, which must necessarily have been the case, as it formed the boundary between the territory of that city and that of Locri. The Sagras, therefore, must be looked for more to the southward, and it seems to me very difficult to avoid recognising it in the Turbolo, the narrow valley of which, where it opens to the sea, presents a strategic position eminently fit for a successful defence by a very small army against infinitely superior forces.

When we pass to the territory of Locri, we enter upon a very compact and distinctly marked topographical district. The canton dependent on that town had by way of frontier, on the north the Sagras, on the south the River Alex, the Aleos of our own days between Cape Spartivento (Promontorium Herculis) and Cape Bruzzano (Zephyrium promontorium), which separated it from the territory of Rhegium. At the mouth of the Alex stood the little town of Peripolium, the last advanced post of the Locrians, afterwards taken from them by the Rhegians. From the hills of Siderno to Cape Bruzzano there extends along the coastline, with a length of about five-and-twenty miles from north to south, a well-watered and marvellously fertile plain, now covered with plantations of orange, fig, almond, and mulberry trees. From about three and a-half to five miles in breadth, the plain first begins to show gentle undulations at some distance from the coast, rising gradually to the first chain of escarped heights, on the summits of which are perched the little towns of Gerace, Ardore, Bovalino, San-Luca, Bianconuovo, the successors of as many ancient fortresses which prevented all risk of a hostile incursion on the part of the half-savage natives, settled in the rugged mountains of the interior, from the Passo del Mercante to the Aspromonte. Such was the stage, marvellously prepared by Nature under the most favourable conditions, on which the Hellenic colony of the Locrians expanded in full security, transforming the country into a perfect garden, which it tends to become once more at the present day.

The town of Locri nestled in the heart of this territory. Of the *φρούρια* which protected it on the land side, the one which had the most brilliant fortune in the Middle Ages was Hieracium, now Gerace. There, to an impregnable position, withdrew, as I have already said, the population of the city, with its bishop, when compelled by the devastations of the pirates to leave the plain along the coast. Gerace is now a-dying; but it richly deserves a visit from the intelligent tourist on account of its citadel, built by Gonsalvo of Cordova, from the summit of which there is an incomparable view, and in front of which there is an esplanade on which yet stands, though partly destroyed, an elegant triumphal monument of the Renaissance in honour of the Great Captain; on account of the priceless Latin inscriptions transported thither from Locri; of its church of San Francesco, a Gothic building of the fourteenth century, with the curious mausoleum *dni Nicolay Russi de Calabr(ia) militis baronialis Bubalini* (Bovalino) *Blanci* (Bianco Vecchio) *Capitis Bruciani* (Cape Bruzzano) *dni*, buried March 13, 1472; last, but not least, on account of its cathedral. This is a building in the shape of a *basilica* erected in the beginning of the eleventh century, and now unfortunately in a melancholy state. The nave is entirely adorned with ancient marble columns, brought from the ruins of Locri. Some of the number are very remarkable in point of material, of *verde antico*, *giallo antico*, and *breccia africana*. But the most precious are six fluted columns of white marble, with their original bases and capitals, which are of Greek Corinthian, bearing the closest resemblance to that of the choragic monument of Lysikrates at Athens, but having the proportions of a large building. A local tradition, the value of which it is impossible to verify, represents them as derived from the famous temple of Persephone, pillaged by Pyrrhus. In any case, these columns and their capitals deserve to be carefully sketched by an architect.

The exact site of the town of Locri was entirely planted with fruit trees some thirty years ago. The works then undertaken unearthed a large quantity of objects of great value for purposes of art and archaeology, which are now dispersed through all the museums of Europe. But they



likewise resulted in the disappearance of the majority of the ruins which till then remained above ground, with the exception of a few Roman buildings and a certain number of fragments of the Hellenic enclosing wall. Regular excavations would now be required to produce fresh discoveries at Locri. But I was enabled to prove to how slight a depth they would have to be carried in order to lead to important results. In the property of Marasà, belonging to Signor Scaglione, syndic of Neolocri, in a search for freestone for the construction of the new town, the workmen have uncovered, some six feet below the surface, and are now demolishing, without so much as making a drawing, the foundations of a large Greek edifice, which must have been one of the chief temples of the town, or rather of its *proasteion* by the sea. It constitutes a massive parallelogram, built of enormous blocks, admirably shaped and fitted together without cement, but rivetted together with cramps set in lead. This parallelogram is surrounded with a flight of steps on the three sides which have been uncovered. Some bronzes were found in these excavations; but the proprietor absolutely refused to allow me to see them. In the hands of different inhabitants of Gerace and Neolocri I was able to examine merely a few objects of very secondary value from the territory of the ancient city. I was, however, surprised to find in the possession of various owners seven *scarabaei* of carnelian and striped agate, similar to those discovered in Etruria. There is likewise a considerable number in the Raccolta Cumana at the Naples Museum, derived from the excavations of the Principe di Siracusa. We might have supposed the latter to have been brought from Etruria to Cumae, but it is very difficult to imagine this in the case of Locri. I should rather be disposed to conclude from these facts that at some particular epoch the custom of carving *scarabaei* in hard stone must have existed among the Greeks of Southern Italy, as it has been proved to exist in Greece proper. According to this hypothesis, it would be the Hellenes who transmitted it to the Etruscans, like so many other usages which it was at first thought possible to refer to a directly Oriental source.

While traversing the site of the town of Locri, the visitor can still trace amid the plantations, in spite of the effects of cultivation, the main features of its topography. Strabo tells how, when Evanthes landed, at the head of a colony of Ozolian Locrians, to found a settlement on the east coast of Italy, he first dwelt for some years at Cape Zephyrium, but speedily discovered a little to the northward a more advantageous site for his city. He built it on a somewhat high table-land, which, from its agreeable position and its fine view over the surrounding plains, had gained the name of *Esopis*. This table-land, which is reached from the sea-shore by an almost imperceptible ascent, is on the left bank of the river of Sant' Ilario. Its centre is occupied by the farmstead called *Casino dell' Imperatore*, built precisely on the ruins of a Doric temple, the columns of which were still in great part standing less than a century ago. The last remaining column was not thrown down till 1828. To the north-west a deepish ravine, shaded with oaks and chestnuts, hides an aqueduct of Greek work, mentioned by Strabo in a passage which has only reached us in a mutilated form. This aqueduct, now called *Fontana dell' Imperatore*, is hewn out of the rock; its opening is pretty wide, but so low that you can only enter it by crawling on your hands and knees. It runs several hundred yards into the mountain, and ends in a square chamber, tolerably spacious, in which you can stand upright. The water brought by this subterranean channel is sensibly diminishing; it has formed itself a way through the fissures

of the rocks, and escapes a few feet below the ancient outlet. A little torrent, dry throughout the greater portion of the year, runs out of this channel to the sea.

To the rear of *Casino dell' Imperatore*, looking toward the heights, is an important fragment of Hellenic wall, running from north to south, to which the name of *Cusemi* is given. This is the remnant of a fortified wall which divided the city into two parts, the eastern and western, the upper town and the lower town. Above *Cusemi*, in what was the upper town, which must represent pretty nearly the old city of *Evanthes*, the ground becomes hilly and irregular. To follow the line of the ancient ramparts, which shut in the city on the north side, you must skirt the ravine through which the *Fontana dell' Imperatore* flows, and make by a winding path for a high point, fortified in ancient times, and designated by the modern name of *Mannella*. To the south-east of this hill another is seen, only separated from it by the very narrow gorge of the *Abadessa*, in which fragments of painted vases, with black figures, and heaps of earth newly overturned, mark the spots where the tombs have been ransacked. A strong wall of Greek construction, and in a cottage the first courses of a square tower, betoken the site of an important fortress, which is named *Saitta*, on this height. To the south a little valley runs between *Saitta* and a third summit, *Il Castellace*, on which are still visible some remains of fortifications, among others a fine Greek tower half in ruins. All this constitutes what the inhabitants of the country still call *I tre Castelli*, and what formed practically a three-fold acropolis for the town of Locri. When Livy, in his thirty-ninth book, tells the history of Hannibal's attempt to retake Locri from the Romans, he speaks, it is to be noticed, of several distinct citadels. The *Propraetor* Q. *Pleminius*, coming from *Rhegium*, succeeded in surprising one of these fortresses, evidently that of *Castellace*, and the city itself declared in his favour. During this time *Hamilear*, with the Carthaginian garrison, had entrenched himself in the other citadel—that is, on the summits of *Saitta* and *Mannella*, and from thence kept the Roman troops in check. Hannibal, on receiving intimation of these events, pitched his camp on the River *Butrotus*, very near Locri—that is, on the river which runs at the foot of *Gerace*, and flows into the sea by *Neolocri*. Thence he communicated with *Hamilear*, and concerted with him a combined and simultaneous attack upon the city. Leaving the shelter of the acropolis, which he still held, *Hamilear* assaulted it on the north-west, while Hannibal vainly sought along the line of the northern ramparts, moving in the direction of the sea, for a point where he could storm with a prospect of success. But toward evening on the first day of the struggle, *Scipio* himself, who had hurried up from *Messana* with his fleet, effected a landing at Locri, and threw his legions into the town. At daybreak next morning they made a successful *sortie* upon the army of Hannibal, who was advancing to deliver his assault. The enterprise was thenceforward doomed to failure. Hannibal sent orders to *Hamilear* to evacuate the fortress which he still held; *Hamilear* obeyed, burning the adjoining quarter to cover his retreat. Afterward, when *Hamilear* had joined him on the *Butrotus*, Hannibal hastily broke up his camp and retired inland to *Bruttium*. The whole narrative of the Latin historian becomes strikingly clear when studied on the spot.

The necropolis, which has already yielded so many painted vases, consisting chiefly of those fine *lekythoi*, with a white ground and designs in deep black, almost as graceful as those of Athens, to which the name of "*lekythoi* of Locri" has been given, although vases of the same type are found in Sicily and Greece, lay on the western slopes of the hills of *I tre*

*Castelli*. Although it has already been greatly disturbed by irregular researches, it would still furnish a rich field for excavations.

The lower city, to the east of the wall of *Cusemi*, as you go down to the sea, appears to have been the only part inhabited in Roman times. At least, the ruins of this epoch, which are absolutely wanting in the higher city, are very numerous here, especially in the farms of *Stragò* and *Centocamere*, and near the *Torre di Portigliola*, inaccurately called *Torre di Gerace* in all the geographies. The Hellenic wall which enclosed this part of the city to the south, along the river of Sant' Ilario, can be still partially traced in the farm of *Stragò*. And from thence the ancient remains occur almost uninterruptedly amid the fields as far as the torrent which runs down from the ravine of *Fontana dell' Imperatore*. In this interval is the estate of *Marasà*, where I have just mentioned the discovery of the foundations of an important temple. A suburb, with its buildings more widely scattered, appears to have extended to the mouth of the River *Butrotus*.

Although the sea washed the foot of its eastern ramparts, some traces of which are still to be seen at *Torre di Portigliola*, the town of Locri possessed, strictly speaking, no port, but merely an open roadstead, exposed to every wind, which was only tenable in fine weather, and where ships, when it blew a gale, ran considerable risk of a disaster like that which befell *Pyrrhus'* fleet and was attributed to the wrath of *Persephone*. Here, therefore, it was out of the question for the Locrians to moor their triremes and to have their naval arsenal. Their military port was about eighteen miles south of the town, and still exists, in a very good state of preservation, between the little town of *Bianco-Vecchio* and *Cape Bruzzano*. Excavated by the hand of man, it now forms a circular *lagone* communicating with the sea, and its general aspect closely recalls that of the port of *Metapontum*. There in all probability was the spot, close to the promontory of *Zephyrium*, where *Evanthes* originally established his colony. Perhaps we must recognise here the *Hipporum* of the *Itinerary of Antonine*, if we allow that it was at this precise spot, and not merely at *Decastadium*, that the road, the stations on which are therein enumerated, struck the sea.

*Reggio* is entirely a modern town, preserving no vestige of the ancient *Rhegium*. The nature of the ground, however, enables us to recognise beyond all possibility of doubt the spot which the acropolis must have occupied—the same spot on which the castle afterwards stood in the Middle Ages. There is no public museum or private collection of antiquities at *Reggio*.

As I passed from *Reggio* to *Messina*, and thence sailed direct to *Naples*, I was not able to explore the coast of *Magna Græcia* on the *Tyrrhenian Sea*, as I had explored that of the *Ionian Sea*. But I have still to jot down a few observations on certain antiquities of *Campania*, which will form the subject of a concluding letter.

FRANÇOIS LENORMANT.

#### THE EXHIBITION OF THE ROYAL SCOTTISH ACADEMY.

THE exhibition of the Royal Scottish Academy, which opened to the public last week, is not one of very unusual merit. It contains few pictures of quite exceptional excellence, but the average of the works shown is high. The Academicians are well represented, the productions of several of the younger artists show a marked advance in technical skill, and several excellent pictures are contributed by the Scottish artists resident in London. Of these last, the majority will be well known to frequenters of the metropolitan exhibitions. They include Mr. J. MacWhirter's *Three Graces*; Mr. Erskine Nicol's *Interviewing*

their Member; Mr. Pettie's *Rob Roy*, A Member of the Long Parliament, and his portrait of *Alex. Watt, Esq.*, in sixteenth-century costume; Mr. Orchardson's *Revolutionist*; and Mr. Archer's *Sacrifice to Dionysus* and *Portrait of Herr Joachim*. Mr. Millais contributes two delicate heads, portraits of his daughters; and M. Portaels, among other works, a large historical scene, *The Prayer of Judith*.

Turning to the works by local artists, we have two very poetic subjects by Sir Noel Paton. The larger, *A Dream of Latmos*, is a circular canvas. In the foreground lies the youthful shepherd among the blossoming grass and trailing honeysuckle, his breast half covered with a purple robe and tiger skin, his hunting spear held in one hand. Bending above him is the fair form of the divine huntress, her head encircled by the yellow disc of the full moon. A smaller picture depicts *The Vision of Sir Galahad*. The youthful knight is seen mounted on a white charger, his head uncovered and bowed in reverence as the "gentle sound" reaches his ears, and the midnight sky is illumined by the "awful light" which encompasses the angels that bear the Holy Grail. The armour and equipments of the knight and his steed are given with the artist's accustomed care and precision, and the landscape background is especially impressive, with its distant mountain peaks, behind which rises the crescent moon, casting a line of light on the lonely tarn below. Mr. W. E. Lockhart shows several effective water-colours; among the rest a very large interior of *King's College Chapel, Aberdeen*, with fine treatment of the rich tones and details of the carved oaken stalls. His single oil picture has all the splendour of colour and vivid dramatic action which are characteristic of the artist. It shows the interior of Cardinal Beaton's chamber in St. Andrews Castle on the eve of his murder. His assailants have fired the door, against which the servant is placing a cabinet for defence, and beside which he stands, clad in his red habit, armed with a two-handed sword and prepared to defend himself to the last. Mr. George Hay gives us a very bright sunny picture, *The Spinners*, of which the technique recalls that of Mr. Orchardson. Mr. Hole sends two effective scenes of bygone times, *A Straggler from the Chevalier's Army*, and a last-century dance, *Christmas Eve at the Squire's*. One of the last elected Associates of the Academy, Mr. Lawton Wingate, shows the most important work he has yet produced, a scene with village *Quoilers*, the landscape surroundings, with the sunset burning in the west and great masses of rosy clouds floating overhead, being specially fine. Among the landscape painters, Messrs. Smart and Fraser, Beattie Brown, Waller Paton, and McKay are as usual prominent, and there is a considerable display of the works of Mr. Cassie, a late Academician. Mr. K. Halswell shows a very passionate scene of chill sky and gathering storm; and Mr. J. C. Noble sends several powerful river subjects, with foreground shipping, and grand treatment of great expanses of sky. Mr. George Reid contributes a noble piece of still life, a study of crimson roses. In portraiture the exhibition is strong, the President Sir Daniel Macnee, and Messrs. George Reid, Norman Macbeth, Herdman, Irvine, and M'Taggart, all contributing notable work. Mr. Robert Gibb shows a very excellent head of the late Lord Provost Law; Mr. W. P. Adam and Mr. John H. Lorimer maintain the prestige of previous years; and another young artist, Miss M. Hope, has two works of great promise, very original and picturesque in treatment—*The Student*, busy with his books in an old-fashioned shadowed room; and a portrait of a child, seated on a stair, with pleasantly arranged accessories of gathered flowers and a growing Nile lily.

J. M. GRAY.

#### ART SALES.

MESSRS. CHRISTIE, MANSON AND WOODS sold recently the large collection of ancient and modern drawings belonging to Mr. Benoni White, the eminent dealer, long of Brownlow Street, Holborn. The drawings perhaps hardly formed as important a part of the collection which this aged dealer left behind him as did the pictures and engravings which were dispersed under the hammer at Messrs. Christie's last season; but they contained a very large representation of the minor, yet still respectable, artists of the early English school, especially of draughtsmen in the medium of water-colours. Mr. Benoni White had long been known for possessing an acquaintance, not only with this school, but with the art generally. Hardly anything that occurred at his most recent sale at Christie's requires detailed record. No very large price was realised for any one example, though the entire collection, inclusive of ancient and modern work, fetched about two thousand pounds. Noticeable among the drawings by Old Masters were a few by Canaletto, of quality unusually fine, and thus, unlike too many others of the drawings, claiming regard, not solely for the authenticity of their attribution, but for their actual merit.

YESTERDAY, or the day before, Messrs. Sotheby, Wilkinson and Hodge were to sell, by order of the trustees, the collection of blue and white china formed by Mr. J. A. M. Whistler, and a certain number of the works of that artist, removed from the White House, Fulham. Messrs. Christie, Manson and Woods are to sell to-day, along with some pictures from another collection, the assemblage of pictures formed by the late Mr. Lionel Lawson, of the *Daily Telegraph*. This includes, besides certain Old Masters and some examples of the elder English school, a somewhat famous example of Boucher, *The Mask*, from the Novar collection.

#### NOTES ON ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY.

MR. HAMO THORNYCROFT has just finished and sent to the foundry a small figure, two and a-half feet high, which will appear in bronze in the forthcoming exhibition of the Royal Academy. It is entitled *Putting the Stone*, and represents a young athlete at the moment when the missile is ready to fly from the palm of his hand. The weight of the figure is entirely on the right foot, and the great charm of the composition is the contrast between the slack extended limbs of the left side, and the tense, contracted muscles of the right. The treatment of the nude is very accomplished, and shows the rapidity with which the sculptor is advancing in knowledge and skill. Mr. Thornycroft may have a still more important statue ready for the Royal Academy; we hope to describe this when it has more nearly approached completion.

PROF. W. B. RICHMOND is at work on a large picture, sixteen feet long, and containing eighty figures, a composition of great vigour and originality. It represents the triumph of the Israelites over the Egyptians. The army marches with blowing of trumpets and shawms, Miriam dances before it with her timbrel, and the embalmed mummy of Joseph is borne in state in the midst of the procession.

THE death of old M. Walferdin, the veteran collector—as well known as an accomplished amateur as he was as a man of science—does not set free the collection of the works of Fragonard which was his chief artistic possession. It is now many years ago since M. Walferdin sold for an annual pension to be continued to him "for the term of his natural life" the collection of Fragonards which he had already formed.

These are, therefore, now, upon M. Walferdin's death, the property of the noble man who years ago secured the reversion to them. But we understand that M. Walferdin did not relinquish the pursuit of Fragonard at the period of his making the bargain already alluded to, and that all that his diligence enabled him to add, at a period of his life when he was at least an octogenarian, is now free for dispersion among his many brother collectors. Fragonard, whom the English public does not know at all, may now conceivably be better known and more correctly appreciated; though it is hardly likely that more extended acquaintance will result in ensuring him the rank which the fashionable criticism of the time claims for him in France.

THE new number of the *Etcher* gives us a rather disappointing bit of river and boating scenery—*Boat Building on the Yare*—by Charles J. Watson; a quaint bit of Abbeville, sympathetically drawn by Mr. Walter Burgess; and two poetically intentioned, but not powerful, scenes of the every-day country by Mr. Ball. A few art notes are now added to the *Etcher*, and the innovation is a good one.

WE have received from Messrs. Virtus and Co. the first number of a publication called *Remnants of Old Wolverhampton*—a series of etchings with descriptive letterpress. The attempt to preserve a record of what is still interesting in a haunt of modern manufacture is of course praiseworthy, and it has our best wishes, nor has it wholly failed. But the etchings are scratchy.

THOSE interested in the preservation of ancient monuments will be gratified to know the termination of the Pont-l'Abbé case. It will be remembered that the Carmelite cloisters of that town were advertised for sale in the *Times* a few weeks back. Mr. G. P. Boyce sent the advertisement to M. A. Guillon, the landscape painter, who made the fact known to the French public through the medium of the press. His effort to save the monument was warmly supported by several journalists, and, among others, M. H. Fouquier wrote an able article on the subject in the *XIX<sup>ème</sup> Siècle*. A few days after its appearance, the latter received a note from M. le Ministre des Beaux-Arts stating that he had considered the case, and had granted 2,000 frs., to be added to 15,000 frs. voted by the municipal council of Pont-l'Abbé, to complete the purchase of the cloister, which was thenceforth to be the property of the Commune in perpetuity. The *Moniteur des Arts*, in chronicling the circumstance, concludes with "*Merci à MM. Boyce et Guillon de leurs généreux efforts, et compliments pour leur succès*"—a sentiment we cordially endorse. In Englishmen this little incident is calculated to awaken feelings of the profoundest astonishment. For a Right Honourable Barnacle to take such interest in an historic monument as to devote money for its conservation would be remarkable; but for him to be influenced by a newspaper article, and, furthermore, to inform the writer of that article that he had acted on his suggestion, would be for us, at present, a notion too wild for credence.

It is stated, apparently on good authority, that the Commission in Rome which watches over national monuments and works of art has determined that the scouring of the marble exterior of the Cathedral of Florence shall be arrested. It is to be regretted that they did not sooner oppose the proceedings of the architect of the church. He has chiselled over a great portion of the ancient edifice, removing entirely the golden yellow conferred by age, and, it is said, has whitened the statues by the use of acids. It is to be presumed that the renewal of many blocks of marble was absolutely necessary, but it would have been better to tint these rather than to chisel over the ancient work to make all equally white. No



doubt the masters who built the cathedral meant the marbles of which it is constructed to be seen of their natural colours; but they must have known perfectly well, from the numerous specimens of ancient buildings then existing in Italy, that time would change the hues of their work. It is to no inconsiderable an extent a misfortune that the marble statues in particular become yellow, brown, and almost black in parts, while some prominent features remain pure white, and that they are now seen under an aspect which not only diminishes their beauty, but must be something very different from the sculptors' intentions; but this is no reason whatever for chiselling or otherwise tampering with their surfaces. Much of the blackness is due to the accumulation of dirt and dust which afflicts Florence in consequence of the softness of the pavement. This might be washed away with pure water without injury to the sculpture. It is evident that the parts which remain clean are washed by the rain, and are not thereby injured. It is matter for rejoicing that the chiselling of surfaces and the other barbarisms which have been too long in progress are at last arrested. Time will so far repair them and replace the rich colouring so ruthlessly removed; but as this has been done by chiselling and not by polishing, the original surface of the marble is broken up, and it may never again recover an equal tint. Chemistry might suggest some means for tinting the new white blocks which are so disfiguring.

SIGNOR BERTOLOTTI is to publish next month a work on the Belgian and Dutch artists at Rome in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

SOME months ago we had occasion to notice with high praise the admirable series of reproductions from Turner's etchings for the *Liber Studiorum* which were then being issued by the Autotype Company. Undoubtedly the etched line lends itself better to reproduction than mezzotint engraving. The difficulties in the way of a satisfactory rendering of mezzotint are indeed great; yet it may be supposed that the Autotype Company has found some means of overcoming them, for they have in preparation "a new edition of the *Liber* facsimiled from rare prints in the best states, lent by the Rev. Stopford Brooke." Judging from a few examples of plates intended for this new edition that have been shown to us, we can safely affirm that they far excel any hitherto issued. One of the plates which have already been printed is that known as *The Bridge in Middle Distance*, and another is the splendidly luminous view of Basle, with the sun's rays streaming over river, bridge, and houses. In both these, as well as in the ominous sky and gloomy downs of *Hind Head Hill*, the effect of passing light so admirably expressed in the print is rendered with the utmost faithfulness; indeed, it is astonishing to see how little is lost of the beauty and softness of these world-famed prints in the reproductions that modern science has made possible. We would especially commend them to the notice of art institutes, provincial museums, and educational establishments of all kinds. The study of such works is in truth an art education in itself.

WE have received from Messrs. Trübner and Co. the first three numbers of a magnificent work on decorative art and costume which is now being published in Germany. It is entitled *Trachten, Kunstwerke und Gerüth-schaften*, and the examples it gives in illustration are taken from works of art ranging from the earliest Middle Ages to the end of the eighteenth century. All these examples are most carefully printed in colours, sometimes on a gold background like the originals, and always with a delicacy and finish of detail that

produces a very rich and beautiful effect. Some of our readers may perhaps be acquainted with this work in its earlier form, for it first came out in numbers extending from 1840 to 1854, under the title of *Costumes of the Christian Middle Ages, from Contemporary Monuments*. This was followed by another series dealing more especially with the miniatures, furniture, utensils, &c., of the Middle Ages and Renaissance periods, which was not completed until 1863. Now both these works are united, and a new edition brought out, which has been thoroughly revised by the learned author, Dr. J. H. von Hefner-Alteneck, whose labours, begun in 1840, now reach a most satisfactory termination, for during this long interval the processes of printing in colours have been greatly perfected, so that the new edition far exceeds the older ones in richness of colour and accuracy of reproduction. It is, in truth, a work such as is seldom undertaken by private enterprise, and we heartily wish it the success it deserves. To students of the culture, manners, and costumes of the Middle Ages and Renaissance it offers a most valuable source of information.

THE idea of the volume *The Year's Art*, compiled by Mr. M. Huish and lately published by Messrs. Macmillan, is probably due to a French volume of similar character which we some while since had occasion to review, and which dealt with French art matters as the work now before us does with English. Mr. M. Huish's task of compilation must have been somewhat arduous, and, we trust and believe, from the amount of matter incorporated into the volume, is by no means useless; but either he has not escaped error in a labour in which absolute correctness is almost the principal requisite, or else his printer has been allowed to go to press after a not altogether adequate revision of the proof-sheets. Important names are liable to be misspelt, as they should not be in a work that aims to be a book of reference. For van Goyen we read van Gozen, at least once. More than once the well-known collector, the late J. H. Anderson, is called Anderton; our eminent contributor Mr. Watkins Lloyd becomes Mr. Watkins Lloyd; and other misprints or misapprehensions could, of course, be cited, since a very cursory examination has revealed these. We have not come across any particulars with respect to the permanent national collections of Scotland and Ireland, though the English National Gallery finds mention. From the list of books on Art published during the year 1879, which is the year of which this volume chiefly treats, we find omitted Mr. Monkhouse's *Turner*, Mr. Austin Dobson's *Hogarth*, and Mr. Scott's *Little Masters*. The prices of the books that are recorded should in all cases have been given, and not only in a majority of instances. Those art sales of the season which took place at Christie's are chronicled, but little mention is made of any proceedings at Sotheby's, an auction-room which is hardly less the haunt of the collector. There is a list of engravings published during the year which appears to be full and accurate, and should be a warning to the amateur. For it is there set down in black and white how of a popular engraving there are issued in some cases many hundreds in the state absurdly described as "artists' proofs." The purchaser of modern prints is probably not the best advised of investors. The Obituary in *The Year's Art* is very bald, no more than five lines, for example, being assigned to the record of so eminent and poetical a painter as Paul Falconer Poole. But, as we have suggested, the compilation of this volume must have been decidedly laborious, and the writer may next year improve on his present effort.

## THE STAGE.

"THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL" AT THE VAUDEVILLE THEATRE.

SHERIDAN's greatest comedy—which is, perhaps, the greatest comedy in English literature—has this week been revived at the Vaudeville Theatre, where, some seven years ago, there was seen the best performance of it that has been witnessed by the younger generation. *The School for Scandal* is again on the whole worthily interpreted, though there are necessarily some changes in the cast. Mr. Howe takes the place of Mr. Farren as Sir Peter Teazle. His performance as that simple-minded, trustful, but testy character is a little warmer than Mr. Farren's, while his appearance may be a little less refined. There is thus not much to choose between the two. Both actors have entered very thoroughly into the part and are equal to its every requirement; and what is strange to notice is the considerable similarity in their performances—a similarity which we attribute not at all to the one having influenced the other, but to both having been influenced by the elder Farren. The common stock from which both Sir Peters spring is visible under the differences of their separate individualities. Again, both performers are well-versed comedians of the elder school, and they have carefully preserved its traditions. With Lady Teazle, as with Sir Peter, there is a change. The death of Miss Amy Fawcitt, preceded by the only too visible and too premature decay of her pleasant and generally spontaneous power, was a loss to those with whom natural vivacity and freshness of interpretation in the art of acting count for much. Miss Kate Bishop is now the Lady Teazle of the Vaudeville, and her performance is at least that of a trained, intelligent, and tasteful actress, incapable, perhaps, of passion or bright enthusiasm, but at least as incapable of grievous offence. Mr. Clayton plays Joseph Surface as he did before, with hearty relish and sly fun, though possibly with somewhat too little indication of the deep treachery of the character. The deceptions of so genial an actor as Mr. Clayton lack the appearance of earnestness; his villainy is not only polished and fascinating, as it should be, but apparently superficial. The Charles Surface of Mr. Herbert, who is new to the part, has already been very much praised, and it finds favour with a large proportion of the house. We do not like it. Mr. Herbert is one of the most distinguished young English actors of modern comedy—excellent in bearing and in speech—but he misses the mark in Charles Surface. As Joseph, in Mr. Clayton's hands, is too superficial a villain, so is Charles, in Mr. Herbert's, too profound and permanent a scapegrace. The wrong note is struck at the beginning; the dinner scene, when Sir Harry sings his song, being wanting in unforced vivacity and *élan*; and the same deficiencies in Charles are apparent, we consider, to the end of the performance.

The minor characters—if, indeed, any character can be called a minor character when its outlines have been traced by a hand so certain and so subtle as Sheridan's—are, with hardly an exception, satisfac-

torily filled. Miss Larkin, it is true, was not born to play Mrs. Candour—her habitual expression not suggesting a facile geniality dangerous to rely upon—but her pointed utterance and her trained intelligence serve her in good stead. Mr. James is a good Moses, though Moses cannot show him at his best. Nothing can be better than Mr. Thorne's Crabtree: a bachelor, with the instincts traditionally assigned to a spinster—of which inordinate love of gossip is the chief. Mr. Lin Rayne, whose Sir Benjamin Backbite was specially remarked during the generally inadequate performance of the comedy at the Prince of Wales's, now repeats that part at the Vaudeville with quite the old success. The fop of the eighteenth century, with that petty patronage of letters that became a man of taste and of quality, is incarnate in Mr. Rayne. Mr. Hargreaves is a good Sir Oliver, his appearance excellently suggestive of that disordered liver which is the fitting penalty of wealth acquired in the Indies. Maria's part was made weak by Sheridan, and Miss Telbin leaves it as she found it. Miss Cecily Richards seems generally too sympathetic to appropriately embody Lady Sneerwell; and if she overdoes anything in the part, it is not the sneer, but "the mellowness," which Mr. Snake declared to be its characteristic. She is, if anything, a trifle too pleasant.

We will venture on a couple of suggestions to the managers, to whom we owe what is, on the whole, an admirable performance of this play. The first is the suppression of as much as possible of the "gag," some of which has during the course of years gradually crept into the dialogue, and some of which would appear to have been introduced more suddenly. If the "gag" cannot be wholly removed, it may, at all events, be weeded. Will any actor have the courage, for instance, to omit the very vulgar "clack, clack, clack," with significant gesture of the thumb behind the shoulder, with which in the screen scene Sir Peter indicates to Charles the whereabouts of "the little French milliner"? The laugh which it invariably wins is bought at the cost of complete departure from Sir Peter's true character. Our second suggestion is that something may be added. Mr. Herbert and Mr. Lin Rayne, Miss Bishop and Miss Richards should dance the minuet. Its introduction at the Prince of Wales's revival was a reasonable thing, and it should become a tradition.

FREDERICK WEDMORE.

### STAGE NOTES.

ON Saturday night, Mr. W. G. Wills's new play, *Ninon*, was brought out at the Adelphi Theatre, on the occasion of Miss Wallis's re-appearance in London. If *Ninon* at the Adelphi does not throughout maintain the dramatist's work at its highest level, it is yet far more creditable to Mr. Wills than his *Forced from Home* at the Duke's. *Forced from Home* is a good, honest melodrama of the kind that was popular forty years ago, and that still has a chance denied to poetic art. In it we meet the wronged maiden and the highly bred seducer whose acquaintance we have formed before. It is work which a writer may choose to do to meet a demand, but which will not add to his

reputation. In *Ninon*, on the other hand, reputation has been thought about. The play not only abounds in situations—it has poetical lines, appropriate thought expressed in forcible words. The scene is laid at the time of the French Revolution, but the events of the Revolution are seen as in the background, only one historical character—the character of Marat—being introduced, and there is little hint of Charlotte Corday. The interest of the play is a good deal concentrated upon the uncertain loves of its heroine, who is represented, of course, by Miss Wallis. Miss Wallis acts with feeling and some grace, and entirely to the satisfaction of the audience. The chief male character is played by Mr. Neville not less acceptably, while an important part is filled by Mr. Fernandez. There is every reason to suppose that the piece will be a popular success.

AN agreeable revival has taken place at the Imperial Theatre—that of Mr. Tom Taylor's version of *The Vicar of Wakefield*. It will be performed for but a limited number of nights, as *As You Like It* is promised for no distant date. The cast is decidedly strong. Mr. Farren plays the Vicar with subtlety, feeling, and refinement; Miss Litton is at the same time a sprightly and a distinguished Olivia, and Mr. Lionel Brough pleases in a character well suited to him. The performance will hardly fail to interest the better class of playgoers, or those to whom a dramatic version of *The Vicar of Wakefield* is still unfamiliar.

TO-NIGHT Mr. Charles Warner repeats for the last time the powerful but repulsive performance which has given him a notoriety denied to his earlier and quieter efforts. He appears at the same theatre, the Princess's, on Monday, in the revival of *The Streets of London*. The long list of revivals recently made, and to which that of Mr. Boucicault's sensational play is now to be added, is perhaps the most complete answer to the question recently asked whether we have really a lack of original dramatists of power.

MR. HENRY MURRAY, who has an hereditary right to success on the stage and in the lecture-room, is the latest important candidate for public favour as a reader of Shakspeare. He has been delivering at the Steinway Hall recitations from *Othello*—the play compressed into a two hours' entertainment. Mr. Murray has valuable gifts, both of *physique* and of intelligence, and the discretion of his reading finds favour with audiences. His interpretation is habitually thoughtful and well considered.

M. CHARLES BIGOT, the well-known political writer on the *Dix-neuvième Siècle*, has added to his habitual work the, in Paris, important labours of a dramatic critic. He writes the dramatic *feuilleton* of the *Siècle*, the journal to which he was attached in a political capacity before his engagement on the *Dix-neuvième*.

THE actors of Italy have conceived the plan of founding an hospital for old and decrepit members of their profession. The house chosen by them for this purpose is the Royal Castle of San Michele in Bosco, near Bologna, once an old monastery, and inhabited by Pius IX. when in that city. They propose that in this mansion old actors and their families shall reside, and that their children shall here receive gratuitous instruction. Over twenty troupes of comedians have given their assent to this proposal, and promise a contribution of 800 Lire a month. Besides this, the embryo society hopes that the city of Bologna and the State will contribute funds.

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